FBIS DAILY REPORT

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PLO'S 'ARAFAT MEETS WITH KREISKY, BRANDT 8 JUL

JN100755 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 0530 GMT 10 Jul 79 JN

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar, PLO Executive Committee chairman, received Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreiksy and Willy Brandt, chairman of the Socialist Internationale, at his residence on 8 July. The three leaders resumed their talks on the situation in the Middle East in the presence of brothers Dr Ahmad Sidqi ad-Dajani and Dr 'Isam Sartawi.

At 1230, the three leaders held a press conference which was attended by the local, Arab and foreign press. The three leaders answered questions by the press. The text of the joint statement was distributed to the press at the press conference.

The Austrian information media tried to embarrass Bruno Kreisky by asking him the following question: Why did you invite Yasir 'Arafat to visit Austria?

Kreisky answered: I invited Yasir 'Arafat in my capacity as chairman of the Socialist Internationale factfinding committee, as deputy chairman of the Socialist Internationale, and in my capacity as a struggler during the Nazi occupation in World War II. Kreisky added: When Austria was wiped from the map, I would have been glad to meet with the (?Swedish) prime minister and ask him to support my people in Austria. I know the meaning of suffering and I understand the conditions in which the Palestinians are living. That's why I sent the invitation.

'Arafat, Kreisky Press Conference

JN091015 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 0430 GMT 9 Jul 79 JN

[Text] Following his 10 hours of meetings in Vienna, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Brother Abu 'Ammar held a press conference yesterday afternoon. The press conference was attended by Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky and Socialist Internationale President Willy Brandt.

During the press conference, brother Abu 'Ammar reasserted that the legitimate right of the Palestinian people to establish an independent and sovereign state is the prerequisite for any peace in the Middle East. Brother Abu 'Ammar demanded recognition of the legitimate right of the Palestinian people to struggle against the Zionist occupiers and to seek Israel's withdrawal from all the occupied Arab areas.

Asked about the barbaric raids on southern Lebanon, brother Abu 'Ammar said that Israel is using sophisticated American planes to strafe the Palestinians and the Lebanese. Attacking the Camp David agreements, brother Abu 'Ammar said that these agreements have undermined the multisided peace negotiations.

Chancellor Kreisky announced at the press conference that the talks were very useful. He told newsmen that he has been in constant touch with brother Abu 'Ammar for years and that after recent intensive correspondence they both decided it is time to have talks.

Socialist Internationale President Willy Brandt announced that any step which could contribute to peace in the Middle East is a step in the interest of everyone. He recalled that Socialist Internationale had authorized him to hold exploratory talks with the PLO.

PLO-Socialist Internationale Statement

JN100735 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 0530 GMT 10 Jul 79 JN

[Text of the joint statement issued 8 July on talks between PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky, and Socialist Internationale President Willy Brandt in Vienna at the end of 'Arafat's 6-8 July visit to Austria]

[Text] Willy Brandt, president of the Socialist Internationale and chairman of the West German Social Democratic Party; Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, and Bruno Kreisky, chairman of the Austrian Socialist Party, had detailed talks on the Middle East situation from 6 to 8 July 1979 in Vienna, the capital of Austria.

The talks dealt in detail with the past, present and future of the dispute in the Middle East. The three leaders reached agreement on several important points.

Chairman Yasir 'Arafat expressed gratitude for the invitation extended to him to visit Austria--a visit which gave him the opportunity to meet again with Chairman Kreisky and to meet with chairman Brandt for the first time. 'Arafat expressed appreciation to the two chairmen for their constructive role vis-a-vis international issues and for their long history of struggle for democracy and independence. This history goes back to World War II when the two chairmen preferred exile and prison rather than acquiescing to Nazi rule.

Chairman 'Arafat emphasized the constructive role performed by Kreisky and Brandt within and outside the Socialist Internationale in seeking to find a just peace in the Middle East. He lauded their constant interest in the issue. He also pointed out the interest shown by the Socialist Internationale toward the Palestine issue and the Middle East dispute.

Chairman 'Arafat praised the initiative made by chairman Bruno Kreisky in his capacity as chairman of the factfinding committee of the Socialist Internationale on the Middle East.

Chairman 'Arafat also praised the decision made in Paris authorizing the president of the Socialist Internationale to hold exploratory talks with PLO leadership.

Chairman 'Arafat explained in detail the development of Palestinian national institutions which climaxed with establishment of the PLO as a symbol and instrument of Palestinian patriotism and with recognition of the PLO as a legitimate representative of the Palestinians by the Rabat summit conference, the nonalined countries and the United Nations.

Chairman 'Arafat also explained the development of the political bylaws of the PLO which led to the adoption of the current stand by the Palestine National Council. Chairman 'Arafat pointed out the painful fact that the Western public knows very little about this.

Chairman Bruno Kreisky warmly welcomed Chairman 'Arafat on the occasion of his first visit to a Western state.

Chairmen Brandt and Kreisky affirmed the need to reach a comprehensive solution of the Middle East problem based on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 of 1967 and 338 of 1973, and on recovering Palestinian national rights and the right to self-determination, as emphasized in the statement on the Middle East issued by the nine countries which are members of the EEC.

Chairmen Brandt and Kreisky understood the explanation made by Chairman Yasir 'Arafat of the Palestine National Council decision calling for establishment of a just and durable peace in the Middle East based on the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from the occupied Arab areas and regaining the Palestinian national rights, including the right to self-determination, the right to return home and the right to establish an independent Palestinian state.

Chairmen Brandt and Kreisky agreed with Chairman 'Arafat that the Palestine issue is the main problem of the Middle East dispute. They also agreed that unless a suitable and (?desirable) solution is found, a comprehensive settlement cannot be reached.

The three chairmen--Brandt, Kreisky and 'Arafat--expressed concern over construction of settlements in occupied Arab areas, which constitutes a serious and important obstacle to peace. They also expressed concern over the outbreak of new military actions in the Middle East and over the tragic situation in Lebanon. They urged a quick solution of the Lebanese crisis.

Chairman Brandt will submit a detailed report on these talks to the Socialist Internationale and will recommend continuation of contacts with the PLO.

AS-SAFIR INTERVIEW WITH FATAH OFFICIAL SALAH KHALAF

NC091330 Beirut AS-SAFIR in Arabic 7 Jul 79 pp 4,5 NC

[Interview by AS-SAFIR's correspondent Walid Shuqayr with Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf, Alias Abu Iyad, in an underground office in Beirut--no date given]

[Excerpts] [Question] Some U.S. officials say that you have been participating in secret dialogs regarding specific proposals.

[Answer] I challenge the Americans to dare meet an official of the PLO publicly or secretly.

[Question] It has been said that some Palestinians closely connected with the PLO are holding a dialog with the Americans and that they are presently in Beirut drawing up working papers for this purpose.

[Answer] Put this on record: The United States is an enemy of the Palestinian people. The U.S. administration is an enemy of everything connected with the right to self-determination for our people. Put it also on record that all that is being said is nothing but empty balloons.

The United States might have contacted any Palestinian suggesting that there is only one course for a settlement, namely that of a treaty, and that the PLO had better follow this course or failing this realize that it is on the path to suicide and liquidation. This is what reaches us from the Americans and this is the U.S. dialog. I am aware who are currently involved without mentioning their names. They are just as anxious to safeguard the cause as Yasir 'Arafat and George Habash and all other Palestinians. They are not American agents. Those I named, and I am one of them, could not answer the Americans and argue with them as they do. Why? Because nothing is being proposed. All that is being proposed is the course of the treaty and that of liquidation and suicide. If we opt for the course of the treaty, what would the PLO'S role be?--no role.

The PLO would then be asked to abolish and end the revolution. Maybe they would not accept us as a political refugee in any of the remote islands. This is what is being suggested by the United States. We must not exaggerate matters. I have the right to ask Ghassan Tuwayni [Lebanese UN delegate] his views or those of any other person residing in the United States who come here. This is not a flaw but for gathering information so that one would know how to confront a rival.

I am saying this to avoid accusations being levelled against other people. I declare through AS-SAFIR that all that is being said and rumored about dialogs is unfounded and of no value. What sort of dialogs are these when they include an exchange of insults?

If we examine the situation in the U.S. State Department we would find ridiculous things, particularly the changes in posts and tasks. They deliberately embark upon changes--not because one person is better than the other in administration--by appointing persons ignorant about the Middle East question to decision-making posts. As soon as one official is familiar with some matters, they transfer and replace him. Name me one official in the State Department who is able to discuss any of the Middle East questions, including the Palestinian question, with understanding and responsive spirit? Strauss who was recently appointed? I challenge them all if he knows anything about the Palestinian question. This man was sent because he is a Jew, and since he has close relations with the Zionist movement he can soften Israel's stand on some matters related to autonomy and thus satisfy As-Sadat. In his statements today, Strauss said that he is not afraid of oil threats against the United States, that nothing would affect the powerful United States, and that the matter of the PLO is not subject to discussion. Kissinger arrived in the area to pave the way for Strauss' visit. My personal information about Strauss is that he is ignorant of all that is related to the Middle East question. By ignorance I mean that you cannot argue reasonably with him. He could not even be called a sensible enemy while he is not in the United States [as received]. The question of dialogs with the United States has been overrated to such an extend that some believe they are a reality.

[Question] What results do the Americans expect from these dialog balloons?

[Answer] Talk about a U.S. - Palestinian dialog is addressed more to the Saudis and the gulf states than to the Palestinians, as though to ease the existing tension between Saudi Arabia and the United States.

They they want to mislead the Soviets in this matter by suggesting that there are new contacts between the Palestinians and the Americans and that something new can be achieved through these contacts in relation to the Palestinians. It is all an attempt to cover As-Sadat and the present autonomy negotiations. The last objective is to cast doubts on the Palestinians and to create problems among them and thus between the Palestinians and the other Arab states.

[Question] It has been said that the Saudi warning of blowing up oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz is aimed at encouraging the Americans to hold a dialog with you. It is also said that your decision to withdraw from Tyre was adopted as a result of an Arab recommendation in an effort to ease Carter's stand regarding you in Vienna. This means that wagering on a dialog with the United States is continuing.

[Answer] I would like to ask: Who said we reject a dialog with the United States? What angers us is the fact that the dialog does not exist although they speak about it. Which organization in the world would refuse a dialog with a great power? However, the painful fact remains that the campaign is meaningless and without justification. How many times have congressmen arrived here and met with brother Abu 'Ammar to hold discussions with us. I had declared several times in Tunis that if Kissinger wants to meet with us publicly he would be welcome. We are not against holding a dialog with any American. However, this does not mean that we do not understand what the American dialog would be regarding our issue--it would be against us.

[Question] Everyone, particularly the Lebanese, focused their attention on Jordan after the treaty and on the Palestinian-Jordanian relationship. What has happened so far with regard to this relationship?

[Answer] A person must not live in dreams in order to put matters in their proper perspective. Relations are at a standstill. We have a political agreement to resist autonomy. I cannot say that the dialog has advanced beyond that.

[Question] After the success of the revolution in Iran, many people expected unlimited Iranian support. What has happened so far is unclear. In fact, Iran's relations with some Arab states are not so good.

[Answer] The Iranian Revolution in itself is considered a support for the Arab position and the Palestinian revolution. In a revolution where, as Iman Khomeyni has said, blood triumphs over the sword, problems will inevitably arise and many forces will try to cause turmoil in the Iranian revolution.

As for the problems between the Iranian revolution and some Arab states--or to be more precise with Baghdad--our opinion is that, as Arabs, we must not contribute to the creation of problems for ourselves and for the Iranian revolution because the enemies of the revolution are trying to destroy it. Any military frictions on the border will prompt the revolution leaders to bring the army to the fore without purging it. We must understand this. We discussed it at length with the brothers in Iraq and in other places. If this army comes to the fore again, it may engage in a battle with Iraq. There are also problems with Afghanistan. The army may gain assume power and establish a military dictatorship which may not bring back the shah but bring a worse regime. We are playing a role to reduce the intensity of disputes as well as ending them. We hope to succeed.

[Question] In view of this and despite the efforts being made to improve the conditions of confrontation, what is the Palestinian strategy? Do you plan, for example, to go underground again?

[Answer] We have a direct role in the struggle against the Zionist enemy which must continue and intensify through armed and political struggle inside the occupied territory. Our role in strengthening it must be our primary concern. We must play a role in strengthening the eastern and northern front in order to help it stand on its feet. Through this front--if it were strong and had effective Arab support--we could activate all fronts and not limit ourselves to the Lebanese front alone.

ARAB PREPARATORY SYMPOSIUM CONVENES IN PARIS

LD081624 Tripoli JANA in English 1408 GMT 8 Jul 79 LD

[Text] Paris, July 8, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--The preparatory symposium for the World Conference for Solidarity with the Arab People and the Palestinian Cause started yesterday morning in the Paris suburb of Nanterre.

Several Arab and foreign political parties and organizations are attending the two-day symposium, including the Palestine Liberation Organization, the general secretariat of the Arab People's Congress, and the French Action Committee.

The World Conference for Solidarity With the Arab People and Palestine Cause is due to convene in Lisbon next November.

The symposium's opening session was today attended by several delegates representing French parties and trade unions including the Unified Socialist Party, the Arab-Palestinian Solidarity Society, the France-Palestine Society, and representatives of world progressive parties, liberation movements and socialist bloc countries.

The representative of the Arab-French Solidarity Society, M. (?Petain), delivered a speech in which he affirmed the necessity of enlightening French public opinion, especially because it is a victim of anti-Arab Zionist propaganda and news media. He said progressive forces in France are in need of support from Arab countries to establish serious and purposeful information in France.

The general secretary of the Arab people's congress, Mr. Omar al-Hamdi, delivered a speech in which he said the Paris symposium is convening during a period of great danger to the Arab region because of Zionist practices and the "Stable David" accords. He said developments in the Arab region's situation affirms that peace has not yet been established there and cannot be based on aggression and the usurpation of people's rights and land. He affirmed that the so-called peace treaty is no more than imperialist diktat in another form.

The secretary general of the P.L.O.'s Executive Committee, Mr. Zuhayr an-Nashashibi, then delivered a speech in which he saluted French progressive forces for participating in preparations for this symposium.

He affirmed the legitimacy of the Palestine people's struggle and the importance of solidarity with Palestinians to enable them to rule themselves and to achieve independence.

Mr. an-Nashashibi reviewed the conspiracy waged against the Palestinian people since the British mandate until partition and the usurpation of land. He condemned the United States' aggressive stance regarding the Palestinian issue at world forums and especially in the U.N. Security Council, where it always stands against the majority's will.

Representatives from various world liberation movements and solidarity committees from the socialist bloc participated in the symposium affirming the legitimacy of the struggle waged by the Palestinian and Arab people.

Statement Issued

LD092010 Tripoli JANA in English 1708 GMT 9 Jul 79 LD

[Text] Paris, 9 July, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--The preparatory symposium in solidarity with the Palestinian people and their prime cause: Palestine, concluded its works in Paris yesterday. At the end the participants issued a statement in which they reasserted their solidarity with the Palestinian revolution and the Arab progressive forces in their just struggle against the occupation of Palestinian territories which is part of the policy plotted by the Zionists. The statement condemned (Israel's) practices in violation of human rights in the occupied Arab territories, particularly the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. It also condemned the policy of suppression imposed on the citizens, the methods of torture used against Arab prisoners in (Israeli) jails as well as the mass arrests and the demolition of Arab citizens houses.

In the statement the participants condemned the annexation and confiscation of Arab territories and the robbing of archaeological sites and culture as well as the (?illegal) exploitation of the natural resources of the occupied territories.

The statement condemned the enemy's attempt to submerge the Arab culture and change the character of schools and universities particularly the violation of the 1949 Geneva Charter especially to treat detained Palestinian militants as war prisoners. The participants considered the situation in Lebanon and condemned the continuous (Israel) aggression against Palestinian and Lebanese citizens who have been facing sea, air and ground aggressions for the past three months nearly. They denounced the usage of prohibited weapons such as the napalm and cluster bomb.

The members of the symposium expressed solidarity with the Lebanese people and the Lebanese patriotic movement with respect to the so-called "self-rule" stipulated by the Stable David agreement, the objective of which is to legalise the annexation of the Arab territories, to prolong the occupation and to strike at the unity of the Palestinian people and exclude the PLO, their sole representative.

They stated that "Stable David" agreements are an increased threat to peace in the region and in the world, which also consolidate imperialist presence in the Arab region, in the form of the alliance between the U.S.A. and the Zionist entity, to protect the interests of foreign monopolies.

The conferees considered the agreements a violation of the Palestinian people's basic rights to self-determination.

They asserted the rights of the Palestinians in regaining their inalienable national rights by all means in accordance with the resolutions of the U.N. General Assembly. They called upon the enemy to withdraw from all the occupied Arab territories.

In conclusion, the conferees praised all peace-loving forces and called for unity between all the people against imperialism and racism, and for the peoples' rights to peace and progress all over the world.

It is worth mentioning that this preparatory symposium (?is part) of the preparations for the Lisbon conference due on 2nd-6th November in solidarity with the Palestinian people.

Its members have sent a cable of solidarity to Mr Yasir 'Arafat, the chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, and to the Organization of African Unity. In the messages they affirmed that "Washington" and the "Stable David" agreements directly threaten the Arab and African liberation movements.

FATAH'S KHALAF CALLS ON ARABS TO USE OIL WEAPON

JN090729 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 0645 GMT 9 Jul 79 JN

[Text] Brother Abu Iyad, member of the Central Committee of the Fatah movement, has called on the Arabs to use the oil weapon, particularly the reduction of production, to support the Palestine cause. He said if the Arabs do this, all the sons of the Palestinian people will serve as soldiers to defend the oilfields.

In an interview published today by the Lebanese magazine MONDAY MORNING, brother Abu Iyad said attacking oil tankers will not deprive the United States and the rest of the world countries of oil and will not resolve the Middle East problem.

Asked about reports about the possibility of direct U.S. military intervention in the gulf to protect tne U.S. interests and the oilfields and sea passages, brother Abu Iyad said the gulf countries can defend themselves by blowing up the oilfields even in the event of U.S. military intervention.

Brother Abu Iyad said these threats are no more than trial balloons launched by the United States. We have informed Arab officials that we regard oil as an Arab interest and will not act against it as long as it remains in Arab hands.

PALESTINIAN LIBERATION FRONT ATTACKS ENEMY IN GOLAN HEIGHTS

JN091251 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1155 GMT 9 Jul 79 JN

[Text] Beirut, 9 July--The Palestinian Liberation Front has announced that a group of its fighters raided a Zionist military camp in the occupied Golan Heights at noon yesterday.

A statement issued by the front in Beirut yesterday evening said that the Hafzi Qasim Abu Bakr Martyr group had clashed with the Zionist enemy in the (Birkhata) camp in the Golan Heights at noon yesterday. The Palestinian group used machineguns, handgrenades, and antitank missiles in inflicting heavy losses on the enemy.

The statement added that the heroes of the operation are: Lieutenant 'Abd ash-Sharif, Salih 'Adil Mawsili and Jirwar Mustafa. They carried out the operation while the terrorist Begin is preparing to visit Alexandria to continue to so-called autonomy talks.

BAHRAIN

AL-KHALIFAH ON GULF SITUATION, RELATIONS WITH IRAN

ID091147 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 4 Jul 79 pp 1,2 ID

[Interview granted by ruler of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman al-Khalifah to 'Irfan Nizam ad-Din, presumably in Bahrain--date not given]

[Excerpts] [Question] What is your opinion of the recent developments in the Arab gulf and the current meetings to strengthen cooperation?

[Answer] The gulf area constitutes a single geographic unit in which every state in it is affected by events in the other states. The conditions in the area make it necessary for the brothers to meet in order to build a strong base for coordination in all fields.

[Question] What is your answer to the recent statements in Iran about Bahrain and how do you view the future of relations between the two countries?

[Answer] After an official Iranian statement was issued denying that such statements reflect Iranian policy and affirming that they are only the personal views of those who make them, we have nothing to add. In our view, the relations between the State of Bahrain and Iran have been, and will remain, based on goodneighborliness and cooperation in the interest of the well-being of the peoples of both countries. I would like to affirm here that Bahrain always views with understanding and acceptance what the Iranian people decide regarding its future and political regime.

[Question] Will you define for us Bahrain's gulf policy and your views on the future of cooperation between it and the gulf states?

[Answer] Our gulf policy is based on cooperation and maximum solidarity. We support everything that would lead to uniting the ranks in order to resist the dangers threatening the area.

[Question] What is the truth behind the uproar over U.S. naval facilities in Bahrain?

[Answer] The fact is there was an agreement to give facilities for the docking of a U.S. supply ship in Salman port in Manama but this agreement was canceled 2 years ago.

[Question] Let us move on to the internal situation. Are there new plans to consolidate the democratic experiment?

[Answer] There is no doubt that the Bahraini democratic experiment was the fruit of freedom of expression and political action which all the citizens enjoy under the Constitution. Just as the citizens have rights they also have duties toward the country and society. We will spare no efforts to give momentum to progress in the realization of our people's aspirations.

KUWAIT

PAPER QUERIES U.S. CANCELLATION OF F-5 SALE TO EGYPT

LD081316 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0744 GMT 8 Jul 79 LD

[Text] Kuwait, 8 July--Kuwait's AL-WATAN today asks:

Why has the United States canceled the aircraft deal with Egypt which had already been approved by the Senate? The paper adds that when the Senate approved on 15 May 1978 the sale of 50 F-5 planes to Egypt, the Egyptian president, Anwar as-Sadat, declared repeatedly that he had broken the arms monopoly through his friend the American president, Jimmy Carter, and said that he was to be treated on equal footing with Israel with regard to the supply of American weapons.

The paper adds: What will those who sang praise of Carter's friendship say now after their friend has canceled the deal? It adds that As-Sadat had hoped that American popular contributions would pay for the deal when Saudi Arabia intimated that it would refuse to finance the purchase of the aircraft. But it is evident now, the paper says, that Carter has not lived up to As-Sadat's expectations of his dear, faithful friend.

"The nature of the deal is obvious. It guarantees the serving of the American foreign policy objectives only, and not those of As-Sadat, however small," the paper writes.

In conclusion, the newspaper AL-WATAN says: "The question that looms in one's mind at present is: Has the United States come to recognize now that As-Sadat has fallen from grace in official and popular Arab circles and in the international sphere, and is it now seeking an alternative to insure a more comprehensive friendship which would better serve American interests?"

KUNA REPORTS 'REAL' REASON FOR SAUDI OIL PRODUCTION INCREASE

LD090900 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0727 GMT 9 Jul 79 LD

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 9 July--The Saudi Arabian Kingdom decided to increase its oil production by 1 million barrels per day during the 3d quarter of this year in an attempt to calm down the troubled international oil markets and stabilize prices of this strategic material, reports the authoritative petroleum bulletin the MIDDLE EAST ECONOMIC SURVEY, published in Nicosia, Cyprus.

It is to be recalled that the Saudi Government announced last week that it decided to increase production to secure funds to finance domestic development projects, but without specifying the extent of this increase.

The MIDDLE EAST ECONOMIC SURVEY reports today that it has learned "authoritatively" that the increase will be 1 million barrels a day during the months of July, August and September and that the "real" reason was to calm down the market, restore stability and standardize OPEC oil prices.

The bulletin expressed the belief that Saudi Arabia refrained from stating the real reason to avoid any negative reaction from other OPEC member countries.

FOREIGN MINISTER LEAVES FOR JORDAN, SYRIA, IRAQ

JN090828 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0800 GMT 9 Jul 79 JN

[Text] Kuwait, 9 July--Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad this morning left for Amman on the first leg of a sudden tour which will also include Damascus and Baghdad. A responsible source said here today that Shaykh Saba will convey verbal messages to King Husayn of Jordan, Iraqi President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad from His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah, amir of the State of Kuwait.

The source added that Shaykh Sabah will also have talks with the officials in the three countries on developments in the Middle East and the Arab-Israeli dispute.

CABINET MINISTER PRAISES 'ARAFAT TALKS IN VIENNA

LD100824 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0706 GMT 10 Jul 79 LD

[Text] Kuwait--'Abd al-Aziz Husayn, Kuwaiti minister of state for cabinet affairs, today praised the recent talks in Vienna between the chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization and leaders of the Socialist International on the Middle East crisis.

Husayn, in a statement published by AS-SIYASAH, stated that Kuwait projects the Middle East peace efforts made by the United States which resulted in the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty because "they do not accord with Arab aspirations."

He described 'Arafat's visit to Vienna and his meetings with Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky and Chairman of the Socialist International Willy Brandt as being a move in the right direction "in view of the weight and prestige that the Socialist International has in world public opinion."

The visit, which took place at the beginning of the week, prompted a storm of protests in Israel, which attacked Kreisky and summoned its ambassador from Vienna as an expression of its displeasure.

The Kuwaiti minister stated that Kuwait was pleased with the welcome and hospitality with which Arafat was met "for it came as a welcome befitting a revolutionary, the owner of a right." He said that such visits are bound to deepen understanding of and confidence in the Palestinian issue. Husayn accused the United States of adopting an Israeli position on every solution to the Middle East question and the Palestinian problem. He stated that the United States should exert concentrated efforts to prevent Israel from realizing its objectives of expansion and domination, which are characterized by continued construction of settlements in the occupied Arab territories.

PDRY

AL-QADHDHAFI ARRIVES IN ADEN; MET BY ISMA'IL

LD091354 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 9 Jul 79 LD

[Excerpt] Brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi today began the 10th stage of his tour of pan-Arab action which has taken him to a number of Arab countries.

The brother colonel arrived in Aden at noon today on a visit to the PDRY. He was welcomed by brother 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il, chairman of the Presidium of the PDRY Supreme People's Council, and members of the Presidium, the ministers, diplomats and large crowds of Aden people.

The brother colonel left San'a' this morning at the end of his 3-day visit to the YAR.

MUHAMMAD SALIH MUTI' RETURNS FROM ROMANIA

ID081616 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 8 Jul 79 ID/EA

[Text] Brother Muhammad Salih Muti', member of the party Political Bureau and foreign minister, returned to Aden this morning from the Socialist Republic of Romania. He had earlier attended the extraordinary session of the Arab League in Tunis.

SAUDI ARABIA

CROWN PRINCE, FOREIGN MINISTER MEET WITH U.S. ENVOY STRAUSS

ID072049 Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1908 GMT 7 Jul 79 ID

[Text] Riyadh 7 Jul 79, SNA--His Royal Highness Amir Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince and deputy prime minister, this evening received Robert Strauss, special U.S. envoy to the Middle East. The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Amir Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister, and Shaykh 'Abd ar-Rahman al-Mansuri, foreign under secretary for political affairs.

Foreign Minister Makes Statement

ID080832 Riyadh SNA in Arabic 0700 GMT 8 Jul 79 ID

[Text] Riyadh, 8 July--When Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, deputy prime minister and crown prince, met here yesterday with the U.S. special envoy, Robert Strauss, he clearly and frankly reiterated the Saudi Kingdom's position with regard to the solution of the Middle East crisis after the American envoy had explained the U.S. efforts in this respect, stated Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, Saudi foreign minister, today in a statement to SNA.

Prince Sa'ud added that Prince Fahd pointed out during his meeting with Mr Strauss that what concerns the kingdom in any efforts to solve the Middle East problem and the Palestine question is that the desired solution should, in the final analysis, be based on Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories and establishment of the legitimate rights of the Palestine people.

Crown Prince Fahd affirmed that the foremost of these legitimate rights of the Palestine people is their right to exercise self-determination and free independent will in their land through the PLO, which is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestine people, so that the solution would satisfy the just demands acceptable to the Arab nation and the Palestine people, the true people of the cause.

His highness pointed out that the solution which will embody all these elements is the solution which could be backed by a unified Arab stand and that without such a unified Arab backing there can be no peace in the area.

Concluding, Prince Sa'ud said that Crown Prince Fahd expressed to the American envoy his sincere hopes that American efforts will concentrate on realizing the just demands and legitimate rights to which the Arab nation and Palestine people aspire.

Strauss Departure

ID080836 Riyadh SNA in Arabic 0700 GMT 8 Jul 79 ID

[Text] Riyadh, 7 July--Robert Strauss, special U.S. envoy, left Riyadh this morning at the end of his brief visit to the kingdom during which he met with Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, deputy prime minister and crown prince. He was seen off at the airport by Shaykh 'Abd al-Rahman al-Manusi, under secretary for political affairs in the Foreign Ministry, and U.S. Ambassador John West.

The American envoy arrived in Riyadh yesterday evening within the framework of a tour of a number of Middle East countries.

In a statement to SNA before leaving, Robert Strauss said that his discussions with Deputy Prime Minister and Crown Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz covered a number of matters of interest to both countries, particularly the Middle East question. The American envoy added that he does not feel any change in the kingdom's policy toward the Middle East. He expressed the hope that he will meet again with Prince Fahd for further talks on the problem saying that the United States will keep the kingdom fully acquainted with all developments pertaining to the Middle East question so that the kingdom's leader will be fully informed [words indistinct]. Robert Strauss described Prince Fahd as a wise, strong and amiable person.

PAPER SAYS AS-SADAT TAKING STEPS TO RETURN TO ARAB FOLD

JN082022 Doha QNA in Arabic 2015 GMT 8 Jul 79 JN

[Text] Jidda, 8 July--The newspaper AL-MADINAH AL-MUNAWWARAH reports today that Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat has indirectly told a number of Arab countries of his intention to discontinue relations [isqat al-irtibat] with the Zionist enemy. The paper says that the Egyptian Government has actually begun taking steps to insure Egypt's return to the Arab fold after all the attempts it is making to achieve peace with Israel have failed and after it becomes clear that the Zionists are exploiting the Egyptians.

UAE

OIL SUPPLIES TO FRANCE REPORTEDLY TO BE INCREASED

ID091006 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0739 GMT 9 Jul 79 ID

[Text] Kuwait, 9 July--The UAE has decided to increase its crude oil exports to France by 30,000 barrels a day at the request of the French Government, reports the authoritative petroleum bulletin the MIDDLE EAST ECONOMIC SURVEY, which is published in Nicosia. The bulletin quotes UAE Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Wealth Dr Mani' ibn Sa'id al-'Utaybah as saying that the UAE has decided to respond to the French request in view of the "traditional cordial relations" between both countries.

Al-'Utaybah adds that the UAE and France concluded an agreement to this effect in May. Under this agreement, the UAE will supply the state-owned French petroleum company this additional quantity of oil. The bulletin adds that the UAE has spare quantities of oil amassed as a result of the Abu Dhabi national oil company decision to reduce exports by 5 percent to countries with whom it has contracts.

YAR

SAN'A' RADIO REPORTS ON TALKS BETWEEN SALIH, AL-QADHDHAFI

JN081843 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 Jul 79 JN

[Excerpt] Lt Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces, and Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the First of September Revolution, held a closed meeting at the armed forces headquarters at 1200 today. The meeting lasted about 90 minutes.

At 1330 [as heard] today an official meeting was held at the meeting hall in the general headquarters between the YAR side led by Lt Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic and the commander in chief of the armed forces, and the Libyan side led by Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the First of September Revolution. At the beginning of the meeting, brother Lt Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih made a speech. He welcomed the great guest and the delegation accompanying him. He said: Today I welcome you to your second homeland. It gives me pleasure to acquaint you with our country and the strides we have made in the areas of construction, development and building. In his speech the brother leader reviewed the YAR's stand toward all Arab and international issues, particularly the fateful issue of the Arab nation--the Palestine question. He also reviewed the two countries' fraternal relations. In a reply speech, brother Colonel al-Qadhdhafi thanked President Salih and the YAR Government and people for the warm hospitality accorded him and his delegation. He reviewed the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah's policy toward all Arab and international issues and the Palestinian people's question. In his speech he stressed his country's concern about achieving Yemeni unity.

Al-Qadhdhafi Departure

JN091344 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 9 Jul 79 JN

[Excerpts] Libyan leader Col Mu-ammar al-Qadhdhafi left San'a' at 0900 today for Aden by land via Ta'izz. The Libyan leader was accorded a big sendoff outside the presidential palace in San'a' led by President "Ali "Abdallah Salih. Before leaving San'a', the Libyan leader held a press conference during which he answered a number of questions put to him by correspondents of local, Arab and foreign news agencies and the representative of San'a' radio and television.

Press Statement

JN092122 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 9 Jul 79 JN

["Text" of 9 July press statement on Libyan leader Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's visit to the YAR]

[Text] At the invitation of brother Lt Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces, brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Great First of September Revolution, accompanied by a high-level delegation from the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, visited the YAR 7-9 July 1979.

Brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and the accompanying delegation wer accorded an official and warm reception expressing the deep ties of brotherhood binding the two fraternal peoples. This visit, which included meetings and a constructive fraternal dialog, is part of brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's tour of Arab countries in support for the Arab nation's steadfastness, in consolidation of the Arab nation's solidarity vis-a-vis all threats menacing it, in crowning all results achieved by the recent visits of the two fraternal countries' officials and a strong momentum for consolidation of realtions of cooperation between the two countries in all fields in response to the will of the two peoples and in achievement of their common aspirations to realize comprehensive Arab unity.

A series of joint meetings took place between the two Arab leaders. They discussed bilateral relations and stressed the need to unite efforts by the two countries on the national and pan-Arab levels which serve the objectives and interests of their two peoples and achieve the Arab nation's objectives.

The two leaders asserted the existence of termendous potentials for developing bilateral cooperation in all fields. The two sides reviewed the current Arab situation and developments resulting from the capitulatory treaty signed between the Egyptian regime and the Zionist entity and its serious impact on the Palestinian people and the Arab cause in general. The two sides reiterated their rejection of this treaty and its consequences since it ignores the Palestinian people's rights and contravenes all Arab and international charters.

In this regard, the two sides stressed the importance of abiding by resolutions of the ninth Arab summit conference and by resolutions and recommendations of the meeting of the Arab foreign and economy ministers in Baghdad, thereby continuing effective unified Arab stand and strengthening and developing the spirit of Arab solidarity toward further persistence and confrontation that would insure thwarting the capitulatory treaty.

The two sides reitereated their support for the Palestinian peoples cause and for their legitimate struggle for the sake of liberating their land and pan-Arab aspirations to set up an independent state on their national soil under the PLO, the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

In this regard, the two sides praised the heroic struggle of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories and the people's commitment to their land. They asserted their support and backing for these people's just struggle to wreck the schemes aimed at evicting them from their homeland, at obliterating their Arab culture and religious beliefs. The two sides also asserted their support for the Palestinian people to enable them to confront the self-rule plan and its consequences.

The two sides noted that the current dialog between the Yemeni sons in the two parts of Yemen through the unity committees and the meetings which had taken place and continue to take place in accordance with the Cairo agreement, the Tripoli declaration and the Kuwait meeting, are a strong step along the road of the unity of Yemen, because Yemeni unity is a basic brick in the edifice of comprehensive Arab unity.

The two sides expressed their satisfaction over the visit's positive results and stressed the importance of exchange of visits between officials on various levels. Brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has expressed appreciation for the warm reception and hospitality accorded him and the accompanying delegation by brother Lt Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and the YAR officials and people.

Brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi invited his brother Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salid, president of the YAR and commander in chief of the armed forces, to visit Libya. The invitation was gratefully accepted.

AS-SADAT-BEGIN DISCUSSIONS TO BEGIN 10 JUL

NC100700 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2335 GMT 9 Jul 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 9 July--The official discussions between President Anwar as-Sadat and Menahem Begin will begin in Al-Ma'murah tomorrow evening with a private meeting between President as-Sadat and the Israeli prime minister. A plenary working session will then be held. Members of the Egyptian delegation consisting of Vice President Husni Mubarak, Prime Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil, Defense Minister Gen Kamal Hasan 'Ali and Foreign Ministry First Under Secretary Dr Usamah al-Baz will participate.

Begin will arrive at An-Nuzhah airport at 1100 tomorrow. He will be met by Vice President Husni Mubarak. Menahem Begin will stay at As-Safa Palace. He, his wife and private secretary Eliyahu ben-Elisar and a very limited number of his aides will visit the Jewish temple in Alexandria. A total of 150 journalists will arrive with Begin.

A special plane carrying 50 Israeli journalists and a number of foreign correspondents in Israel arrived today.

President as-Sadat, Begin and a limited number of the aides from both sides will dine together tomorrow night.

It has been decided to hold the second session of the discussions at Ra's at-Tin Palace at 1100 on Wednesday when the second round of the official discussions between President as-Sadat, Begin and the two delegations will take place.

Begin is expected to hold a press conference after the second session of the discussions. He will visit the Romanian museum afterward.

AL-AHRAM reports that Dr Mustafa Khalil will invite Begin to a private dinner on Wednesday evening and that Begin will leave Alexandria at 0900 on Thursday.

AL-JUMHURIYAH REPORTS ON ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM SINAI

NC100845 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0630 GMT 10 Jul 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 10 July--AL-JUMHURIYAH reports today that Defense Minister Gen Kamal Hasan 'Ali met with President Anwar as-Sadat yesterday in the presence of Vice President Husni Mubarak. General 'Ali submitted to the president a report on the phases of the Israeli withdrawal from Sinai, both those phases which have already been carried out and those which are to be carried out.

The paper says that agreement has been reached on the entry on Thursday of the Egyptian reconnoitering and observation groups into the second withdrawal area, which covers 9,500 square kms.

The Egyptian-Israeli joint military committee has also decided that the area involved in the second phase of withdrawal from Sinai, for which 25 July has been set, will be handed over to the Egyptian armed forces. The committee has also agreed on the method for demarcating lines in the area by the joint military teams. This demarcation will be carried out next Saturday.

The paper adds that Brig Gen Safiy ad-Din Abu Shinaf, the head of the Egyptian delegation, has stated that the committee yesterday received all the documents related to the area, as well as the maps of the area, particularly maps of minefields.

All the measures for handing the area over will be completed within the next 10 days. This area includes the 45 km deep oil wells of 'Asal and those of Jabal (umm Bajmah) and the wells of Safra and Fayran.

The joint military committee held its meeting in Abu Rudays yesterday and discussed the measures for handing over the area. The committee then boarded a helicopter and viewed the oil wells which will be received during this stage, in addition to the water sources, two landing strips, and the manganese deposits in the area.

FOREIGN MINISTRY WELCOMES KREISKY, BRANDT, 'ARAFAT MEETING

NC100705 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2330 GMT 9 Jul 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 9 July--An official source at the Foreign Ministry today said Egypt welcomed the tripartite meeting held in Vienna among Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky, former German Chancellor Willy Brandt and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

The source added that Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil received today a detailed report on the tripartite discussions held in Vienna and that Egypt welcomes the efforts by the Socialist International to insure the Palestinians' participation in the peace process. These efforts support Egypt's view that the Palestinian question is the crux of the problem.

LIBYAN INTELLIGENCE AGENT RECEIVES PRISON SENTENCE

NC091355 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1230 GMT 9 Jul 79 NC

[Excerpts] Alexandria, 9 July--The supreme military court in Alexandria today sentenced 'Abd al-Mun'im 'Ali Muhammad Hasan, an agent of Libyan intelligence, to 15 years hard labor and a fine of 1,000 pounds.

In giving the reasons for passing the sentence, the court president said that the accused admitted during interrogation that he had infiltrated the country's international border and sought to work with Libyan intelligence and furnish it with information about the Egyptian armed forces and their locations.

AIMS OF AL-QADHDHAFI GULF TOUR EXAMINED

NC100906 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0705 GMT 10 Jul 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 10 July--Some reports have been received from the Arab capitals Libyan Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi visited on his recent tour. These reports reveal that Al-Qadhdhafi is saying publicy that the objective of his tour is to demand a scrupulous implementation of the Baghdad conference resolutions in an attempt to isolate Egypt. However, the real objective is to try to corroborate Al-Qadhdhafi's claims that Cairo will launch a war against him and to exploit these claims to express his willingness to extend previously promised financial

Colonel al-Qadhdhafi arrived at a superficial understanding with Syria. However, this understanding quickly evaporated into thin air when the Syrian authorities learned that the Libyans had held secret contacts with resistance leaders when Al-Qadhdhafi was in Damascus. These resistance leaders do not sympathize with the 'Alawite Ba'thist regime. The Libyans asked these leaders not to respond to any Syrian pressure for withdrawal from southern Lebanon and for halting their activities against Israel through Lebanese territory.

The reports indicate that this matter surprised the Syrians, who had asked the Lebanese prime minister to personally convince the Palestinians to hold their activities in abeyance, on the grounds that such a move would spare Lebanon from much aggression. Furthermore, such a move would save Syria from having to confront Israel under circumstances unfavorable to Syria, particularly in light of the troubled Syrian domestic situation.

The reports state that the relations between Libya on the one hand and Syria and Iraq on the other have been strained because of Libya's attempts to pressure the Palestinian leaders into demanding the opening of the Syrian, Jordanian and Lebanese fronts to Fedayeen action. Syria and Iraq do not consider these Libyan attempts anything more than mere propaganda and Libya does not appreciate this. They also believe these attempts are an act of capitalizing on the cause in the eyes of the Arab people to arouse their emotions.

The Iraqis and Syrians were disenchanted by the fact that at his meeting with the Palestinian leaders, Al-Qadhdhafi announced that he was prepared to immediately pay $200 million to the Palestinian resistance over and above what the Baghdad conference had allocated for them on condition that the resistance supports Al-Qadhdhafi's demands.

BUTRUS GHALI MAKES STATEMENT AT OAU MINISTERS MEETING

NC091625 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1415 GMT 9 Jul 79 NC

[Text] Monrovia, 9 July--Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali has asserted that the aim of the Egyptian diplomacy at the African states foreign ministers and summit conferences is to serve the Palestinian cause and seek the continuing support of the African states for Egypt in its struggle for the future of the Palestinian people.

In an exclusive statement to MENA, Dr Ghali added that Egyptian diplomatic efforts during the two conferences will attempt to play a conciliatory role in settling Afro-Arab disputes and to form an international African emergency force. It will also seek to lay down a common strategy in preparation for the nonalined summit conference and continue to defend the policy of peaceful coexistence and noninvolvement in military alliances.

Dr Butrus Ghali underlined Egypt's interest in the question of liquidating colonialism in the southern part of the African Continent and in Afro-Arab cooperation which, he said, is passing through a crisis because of the division inside Arab society, a matter which calls for an alternative strategy that would preserve this cooperation.

On Egypt's role in settling African disputes, Dr Ghali explained in his statement to MENA that Egypt's principled position in this regard is based on the important principle that these disputes should be settled within an African framework and through the OAU. He emphasized that Egypt will try to find solutions to the most important African problems through conciliation and whatever else it can offer to the states concerned.

Dr Ghali added that Egypt will apply this even to the rejectionist states. Citing Morocco and Algeria as an example, he said: Although they have joined the rejectionist camp, Egyptian diplomacy will try to play a conciliatory role in their disagreement because the friendly settlement of this disagreement would strengthen the African Continent. Strengthening the African Continent and African unity is one of our aims even if the states involved are among those that have adopted a hostile attitude toward Egypt.

Regarding the establishment of an African emergency force, Dr Butrus Ghali affirmed that Egypt is interested in this question because of the importance of such a force on the African level in confronting foreign interference which threatens African unity.

Regarding the forthcoming nonalined conference in Havana, Dr Ghali pointed out that the African states enjoy a numerical majority inside the nonalined group. We must take advantage of this numerical majority to bolster the policy of nonalinement and protect it from the deviations threatening it, be they the attempts to draw this policy closer to the socialist or communist camp, or attempts to link it with the Western camp.

Dr Ghali further said that Egyptian diplomacy wants the nonalinement to become a true nonalinement and that it seeks to find a kind of aspired balance in the relations with the Western and Eastern camps. This balance, he added, will help strengthen the policy of nonalinement and assist the nonalined states in continuing to proclaim their message, which is based on the idea of defending the policy of peaceful coexistence between the two camps and bolstering peace and security in order to strengthen the United Nations and not become involved in the military alliances of any of the two camps so as to reject the establishment of military bases in any of the nonalined states. These are noble aims that were laid down during the 1955 Bandung conference.

Dr Ghali emphasized that Egypt is trying to consolidate the nonalined principles, because they help African unity and also help Africa to confront the foreign interferences threatening the continent. These interferences, he said, might lead to the division of the continent or to more interference by other sides. This could lead, he concluded, to the cold war moving to the African Continent.

DEFENSE MINISTER REPORTS TO AS-SADAT ON ROMANIA TALKS

NC100646 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 10 Jul 79 NC

[Text] The minister of defense and war production, Gen Kamal Hasan 'Ali, has sent a report to President as-Sadat on the outcome of his military talks with Romanian officials during his latest visit to Romania.

The minister of defense also briefed the president on the implementation of the program for the diversification of sources of arms and war production projects.

BULGARIAN INTERIOR MINISTER PRAISES IRAQI-SYRIAN UNION

JN061015 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0950 GMT 6 Jul 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 6 July--Bulgarian Interior Minister Dimitur Stoyanov has praised the Iraqi-Syrian political declaration.

In a statement to INA, he said that the union between the two countries will have positive results in confronting imperialist and Zionist schemes and in aborting the capitulatory agreements between the Egyptian regime and the Zionist entity.

Stoyanov Departs

JN071536 Baghdad INA in English 1512 GMT 7 Jul 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, (INA)--Bulgarian Interior Minister Mr Dimitur Stoyanov left here today concluding a four-day visit to Iraq.

(?Prior) to his departure, Mr Stoyanov stated that he conducted talks with his Iraqi counterpart Mr 'Izzat Ibrahim related to bolstering bilateral relations.

A long-term program for trade, industrial, agricultural and internal affairs cooperation was signed, he said.

NICARAGUAN PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT SENDS THANKS FOR RECOGNITION

JN071508 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1420 GMT 7 Jul 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 7 July--The Nicaraguan provisional revolutionary government of reconstruction has expressed its appreciation of Iraq's recognition of the new government.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi today received a cable from Miquel d'Escoto, foreign minister of the provisional revolutionary government, expressing his government's appreciation of Iraq's decision. The cable also expresses the hope that relations between Iraq and Nicaragua will prosper, and that the struggle being waged by the Arab people will succeed.

Iraq recognized the Nicaraguan provisional revolutionary government of reconstruction last Wednesday.

REVOLUTIONARY PARTY OF KURDISTAN ISSUES STATEMENT

JN072032 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1830 GMT 7 Jul 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 7 July--The Central Committee of the Revolutionary Party of Kurdistan has declared that the steps taken by the two fraternal countries of Iraq and Syria on the path of achieving unity and the resolutions of the Baghdad summit conference and the Arab foreign and economy ministers conference have introduced new and tangible changes in the Arab position on the official and popular levels.

In a final statement issued here at the end of its ordinary meeting last Monday, the Central Committee reviewed developments in the domestic, Arab and international situations.

It also discussed the future impact of these developments on the overall situation, particularly in the Arab area which is passing through a delicate phase as a result of the actual and direct implementation of the imperialist, Zionist and reactionary designs in the aftermath of the conclusion of the treasonous treaty between the As-Sadat regime and the Zionist enemy.

In its statement the party reviewed the revolutionary stands of the leadership of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the revolution on the regional, Arab and international levels and the achievements it has accomplished for the masses, including the application of autonomy, the nationalization of oil, the establishment of the progressive national front, and the firm confrontation of the imperialist and Zionist designs and plots.

As for the developments in Iran following the victory of the revolution over the shah's regime, the Central Committee of the Revolutionary Party of Kurdistan reaffirmed its constant stand toward the struggle of the Iranian peoples and their national rights, including self-rule and democratic liberties for all the nationalities coexisting in Iran.

The Central Committee warned the Iranian regime against being dragged behind expansionist and chauvinist ambitions and demanded the fulfillment of the legitimate national rights of the Iranian peoples and a halt to expanionist policies in the Arab Gulf area.

In its statement, the Central Committee of the Revolutionary Party of Kurdistan stressed that the chauvinist practices carried out by the elements close to the Iranian revolution leadership and by the proteges of the new regime leave no doubt that the Iranian revolution has deviated from the course and objectives for which it took place.

The Central Committee added: The ideas, opinions, greed and chauvinism currently promoted in Iran confirm that the men of the new regime are adopting the same path followed by the former regime, and that the causes and factors which allowed the Iranian revolution to mature and to be able to triumph over the shah's regime are reappearing. This is demonstrated by the uprisings by the Iranian people, be they Persians, Arabs, Kurds, Azarbayjanis or Baluchis.

JAPANESE TRADE MINISTER ESAKI ARRIVES IN BAGHDAD

JN090736 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2035 GMT 8 Jul 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 8 July--Masumi Esaki, Japanese minister of international trade and industry, arrived here this evening to head his country's side to the meetings of the second session of the joint Iraqi-Japanese committee on technical and economic cooperation due to begin here tomorrow.

Esaki told INA that his 2-day visit comes within the framework of strengthening ties of friendship and cooperation existing between Iraq and Japan. He said that he will hold talks with officials in the Ministries of Planning, Trade and Industry, and Minerals to exchange views on developing bilateral cooperation in the economic and trade fields in the interests of the two friendly peoples.

Esaki is accompanied by a delegation including a number of officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of International Trade and Industry.

Trade Discussions

JN091348 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1235 GMT 9 Jul 79 JN

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 9 July--The meetings of the second session of the joint Iraqi-Japanese committee on technical and economic cooperation began here this morning. The meetings are chaired by 'Adnan Husayn, Revolution Command Council member and planning minister, and Masumi Esaki, Japanese minister of international trade and industry.

In speeches exchanged during the meeting, the two ministers asserted the desire of their countries to develop cooperation in the trade, industrial and technical fields.

Five subcommittees were formed during the meeting for trade and industry, technical cooperation, finance and banking, oil and energy. The subcommittees will meet separately to discuss the relations between the two countries in the above-mentioned fields.

Further On Talks

JN091719 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1600 GMT 9 Jul 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 9 July--Hasan 'Ali, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and minister of trade, today met with Masumi Esaki, Japanese minister of international trade and industry and head of the Japanese side in the Iraqi-Japanese joint committee for economic and technical cooperation.

The two ministers reviewed bilateral trade relations and exchanged views on providing better opportunities for the development and diversification of bilateral trade to serve the common interests of the two countries.

The two sides also discussed the most prominent issues related to international trade, the international trade situation of developing countries, and what the industrial states should do to help developing countries and accelerate their overall development.

Hasan 'Ali referred to the measures taken by Iraq to assist the developing countries and to improve the conditions of their foreign trade, stressing Iraq's international obligations toward these countries in view of the fact that Iraq itself is a developing country.

Muhammad 'Ayish, RCC member and industry and minerals minister, discussed with the Japanese minister of international trade and industry the possibility of developing bilateral industrial relations. During their meeting the two ministers also reviewed the development of cooperation between Japanese companies that are implementing a number of industrial projects in Iraq through the Ministry of Industry and Minerals. The two sides stressed the need for the two countries to cooperate in technical and technological fields and in training Iraqi industrial personnel.

The Japanese minister of international trade and industry arrived in Baghdad yesterday. He leads a delegation to the meetings of the second session of the Iraqi-Japanese joint committee for economic and technical cooperation that began here today.

SADDAM HUSAYN HOLDS THIRD ROUND TALKS WITH RAYMOND BARRE

JN091017 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0847 GMT 9 Jul 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 9 July--Saddam Husayn, vice chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council [RCC], this morning held the third round of Iraqi-French talks with French Premier Raymond Barre.

INA has learned that today's talks centered on ways to strengthen bilateral relations and cooperation in all fields.

During the last two sessions, which were held in an atmosphere of frankness and deep understanding, current Arab and international affairs were discussed.

The talks were attended on the Iraqi side by 'Adnan Husayn, RCC member and minister of planning; Dr Sa'dun Hammadi, minister of foreign affairs; and Nuri Najm al-Wais, Iraqi ambassador in Paris. The talks were attended on the French side by members of the French premier's delegation and the French ambassador to Iraq.

Barre Concludes Visit

JN091532 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1514 GMT 9 Jul 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 9 July--French Prime Minister Baymond Barre left Baghdad this afternoon.

Barre was officially seen off at Baghdad international airport. Foremost among those who saw him off were Revolution Command Council [RCC] Chairman Saddam Husayn, as well as RCC members, ministers and senior government officials.

In a statement he made to INA before his departure Raymond Barre said that his talks with Revolution Command Council Deputy Chairman Saddam Husayn were successful and fruitful, and that points of view were exchanged in a thorough and precise manner.

Barre said that he and Saddam Husayn reviewed international issues, particularly issues connected with the Arab region, special conditions for developing the world economy and issues connected with oil price increases.

Barre also said that it was decided to increase economic exchanges between Iraq and France and to increase bilateral cooperation, especially in the field of advanced technology.

Raymond Barre said that his talks with Saddam Husayn also dealt with bilateral relations. He expressed satisfaction at the convergence of the views by Iraq and France.

Barre said: The contemporary world needs confidence. I have expressed our view to Saddam Husayn on all the topics discussed clearly, objectively and sincerely. Thus we were able to reflect the depth of relations that bind France and Iraq.

Barre expressed France's gratitude to Iraq for the additional quantities of oil which Iraq gave to France last February.

The French prime minister said that it was agreed to hold regular meetings with Saddam Husayn with the aim of continuing the exchange of views between the two friendly countries.

Barre added: We shall expect Saddam Husayn in Paris to continue our friendly dialog.

BA'TH PARTY OFFICIAL GIVES INTERVIEW TO ALGERIAN PAPER

JN081827 Baghdad INA in English 1718 GMT 8 Jul 79 JN

[Text] Algiers, INA--Dr. Munif ar-Razzaz, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party (ASBP), has stressed the importance of the cohesion of the Arab revolutionary forces to "foil the imperialist-Zionist-As-Sadat conspiracies."

In declarations to the Algerian weekly EL MOUDJAHID, Dr. ar-Razzaz called for pooling of the endeavours of the Arab progressive forces against enemy scheming.

Referring to the Baghdad Arab summit conference, Dr. ar-Razzaz said the decisions of the conference were aimed at foiling the As-Sadat surrender policy.

Touching on the Syrian-Iraqi unification drive, Dr ar-Razzaz said the steps taken by Iraq and Syria were aimed at building the foundations of unity, whether at the level of the masses or at the level of the party and through coordination between the state organs in the two countries.

Referring to the recent meetings in Baghdad between the two leaderships of Iraq and Syria, Dr. ar-Razzaz said the Baghdad talks between the two leaderships covered the unity of the state and party. "There were many points on which agreement was reached while there were other points still waiting for agreement," Dr. ar-Razzaz added.

He went on to say: "We are keen on a speedy achievement of the unity, but on permanent and perfect foundations."

Referring to Iraq's oil policy, [words indistinct] seeking pricing oil in the light of (?increasing) prices of manufactured and agricultural commodities exported by the capitalist countries to developing countries.

Iraqi proposals at the recent meeting of OPEC in Geneva are aimed at compensating the developing countries for the increase in oil prices, Dr. ar-Razzaz said.

Referring to the topics discussed during his recent visit to Algeria, Dr. ar-Razzaz said they come within consultations and exchange of views with Algerian officials concerning issues of concern to the Arab nation and for concerting efforts to counter the imperialist and reactionary assault on the Arab and West. [as received]

Dr. ar-Razzaz said the visit was aimed at countering the imperialist-Zionist Camp David accord to mobilize the forces for its foiling and carry on the struggle to liberate Palestine, as well as for discussing cooperation relations between the ABSP and the Algerian National Liberation Front.

Asked about the Sahara question, Dr. ar-Razzaz said it was not a separate issue, but an issue intended to bring the area under the imperialist influence.

Dr. ar-Razzaz said: "We believe in the right of the Saharan people to decide their destiny by themselves and in full freedom inside their territory within a unitary conception of all the progressive and revolutionary forces in the area."

Dr. ar-Razzaz stressed that rejection of the imperialist presence is bound to lead to a joint action that will achieve for the Saharan people their dignity and pride.

KUWAITI FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES IN AMMAN, MAKES STATEMENT

JN091239 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 9 Jul 79 JN

[Text] Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad as-Sabah arrived in Amman this morning for a 2-day visit to Jordan. Shaykh Sabah told newsmen he will convey a message to His Majesty King Husayn from his highness the amir of the State of Kuwait dealing with the Arab situation in general and Jordanian-Kuwaiti relations in particular.

Asked about the possibility of convening an Arab summit conference, Shaykh Sabah said Kuwait does not object to the convening of an Arab summit conference because the current circumstances dictate that the brother Arab leaders engage in consultations.

Speaking about the Middle East crisis, Shaykh Sabah said everything we own in the Arab world will be utilized for serving the Palestine cause. Everything that Kuwait owns will be utilized for the sake of this cause also.

Shaykh Sabah was met by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hasan Ibrahim, the secretary general of the Foreign Ministry, the governor of Amman, the director of the Amman Police Department, the Kuwaiti ambassador in Amman and the embassy staff.

Further Report

JN091528 Doha QNA in Arabic 1445 GMT 9 Jul 79 JN

[Excerpts] Amman, 9 July--Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad as-Sabah arrived in Amman this morning for a 1-day visit to Jordan.

Asked by the QNA Amman correspondent about Kuwait's stand regarding U.S. threats to occupy the oilfields, the Kuwaiti foreign minister said: These threats are not new and we would not be presumptuous if we say that we are capable of standing up to the United States and its strength and grandeur. I am certain that our peoples can confront the occupation, but nevertheless, we should not heed these threats, he added. The Kuwaiti foreign minister described these threats as trial balloons to test our peoples and nerves in the Arab world. Praise be to God, we are capable of resisting these threats, but we should not attach great importance to them.

Asked about Kuwait's position on the issue of linking oil with the solution of the Palestinian problem, Shaykh as-Sabah said: All that we possess is for the sake of our primary cause, the Palestine cause. Everything that belongs to Kuwait and others should be sacrificed for the cause, he added.

Delivers Message to Husayn

JN091840 Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 9 Jul 79 JN

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn at Al-Hashimiyah palace this evening received Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad as-Sabah, who conveyed to his majesty a message from Amir of Kuwait His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah on the Arab stand on current developments and bilateral relations.

The Arab situation and means of strengthening Arab solidarity and action were reviewed. Attending the meeting were Chief of the Royal Hashemite Court His Exellency Sharif 'Abd Al-Hamid Sharaf, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hasan Ibrahim and the Kuwaiti ambassador to Jordan.

DPRK SUPREME PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY CHAIRMAN ARRIVES 8 JUL

JN082131 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 8 JUL 79 JN

[Text] Hwang Chang-yop, chairman of the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly, arrived in Amman this evening. He is leading a parliamentary delegation on a 5-day visit to Jordan at the invitation of Senate Speaker Bahjat at-Talhuni.

In a press statement at the airport, Hwang Chang-yop expressed his pleasure and that of the members of his delegation at visiting Jordan. He said that the visit will give them the opportunity to understand the Jordanian view of the Middle East crisis. He said the delegation will have the opportunity to acquaint itself with Jordan's construction, development and economic progress achieved under the wise leadership of His Majesty King Husayn. He said he will be holding talks with senior Jordanian officials aimed at supporting and developing the relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries, especially in the parliamentary field.

He stressed that the successes Jordan and the DPRK are achieving on the road of independent development and building a new society contribute to strengthening the capability of the Third World countries and the nonalined countries as a whole. Hwang Chang-yop stressed the DPRK's support for the just causes of the Arabs and especially for the Palestinian cause.

Hwang Chang- op's visit comes in reply to At-Talhuni's visit to Korea last May.

He was received at the airport by Senate Speaker Bahjat at-Talhuni, a number of Senators, the Secretary of the People's Assembly, the Korean Ambassador in Amman, members of the DPRK Embassy staff and a representative of the Foreign Ministry.

Meeting With Husayn

JN091910 Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 9 JUL 79 JN

[Text] This evening, His Majesty King Husayn received the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly delegation led by Hwang Chang-Yop at Al-Hashimiyah palace. His majesty briefed the DPRK delegation on the latest developments in the Middle East, dimensions of the Jordanian stand and Arab views on these developments.

Hwang Chang-yop conveyed to his majesty greetings and appreciation from DPRK President Kim Il-song. He stressed his country's support for the legitimate Arab rights. He offered His majesty a portrait souvenir that symbolizes long life, happiness and good luck. Also attending the meeting were Senate President Bahjat at-Talhuni and the DPRK ambassador to Jordan.

SARKIS, AL-HUSS, BUTRUS DISCUSS SITUATION IN SOUTH

NC091250 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 9 Jul 79 NC

[Excerpts] The situation in southern Lebanon was the subject of discussions at a meeting held at the Presidential Palace at noon today. The meeting was attended by President Ilyas Sarkis, Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss and Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus. Informed sources said that the foreign minister will brief President Sarkis and Prime Minister al-Huss on the talks he held with the U.S. ambassador in Beirut last Saturday. During this meeting, Butrus asked the ambassador to convey to his government a formal request from Lebanon that the U.S. Government exert as much pressure as possible on Israel to get it to desist from its attempts to increase tension in the area. The meeting of President Sarkis with Prime Minister-designate Dr Salim al-Huss and Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus ended a short while ago. After the meeting Prime Minister al-Huss made the following statement [begin recording]:

[Al-Huss] This working meeting was devoted to a discussion of percent developments in the south and the aggression against some southern villages in the past few days. It was decided that we would convey the details of what happened in the past few days to our UN permanent delegate and put this information before the UN Security Council. The discussion of this subject will be continued with the UNIFIL Commander General Erskine and the Lebanese Army Command. The discussion will focus on the aggression against the villages of southern Lebanon.

[Question] Mr Prime Minister, is there a plan to extend the deployment of the Lebanese Army in the border area?

[Answer] It is known that we reached a previous agreement with the UNIFIL Command, with the knowledge of the UN Secretariat General, on a timetable for the deployment of the UN forces, and then the Lebanese Army and the Lebanese Legal Authority in General, on the border strip. The stage agreed upon with the UNIFIL command was announced and its general outlines are known to all. However, the circumstances through which the south passed during that period did not allow the implementation of this program. The contacts which are taking place between the Lebanese Army Command and the Command of the UN peace keeping forces in the south center on this subject. We hope to reach a joint plan of action with the UNIFIL Command regarding the restoration of the legal authority to the border strip during the current UNIFIL mandate which began on 19 June [end recording]

ISRAELI FORCE ENTERS VILLAGE IN SOUTH

NC091216 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 9 Jul 79 NC

[Text] The Israeli enemy has continued its series of daily aggressions against southern Lebanon. At about midnight last night, an Israeli patrol entered the village of Oabrikha, near the village of Majdal Slim in the central sector, and searched the houses for weapons. The Israeli patrol then blew up two houses with dynamite.

VOICE OF LEBANON REPORTS ADF-AS-SA'IQAH CLASH

NC091617 (Clandestine) Voice of Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 1515 GMT 9 Jul 79 NC

[Excerpts] In Al-Amrushiyah-Burj al-Barajinah, an armed clash took place between elements of the Arab Deterrent Forces [ADF] and As-Sa'iqah armed men. Two young men from Al-Amhaz family from Al-Hirmil were killed. The situation is still tense.

In Beirut, the commercial area and Martyrs' Square were the scene of intermittent gunfire. Military fortifications and preparations were underway in the At-Tu'awuniyah building, behind the Sa'd building in the Al-Khandaq Al-Ghamiq area.

PRESS COMMENTS ON U.S. THREATS, CONSPIRACIES

JN081133 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 8 Jul 79 JN

[Press review]

[Excerpts] Under the headline "Our People Are Stronger Than the Conspiracy," TISHRIN says: The objectives of our enemies' vicious campaign against Syria are well-known. Enemy attempts to harm our solid position, which is hostile to the enemy conspiracies and schemes, have been revealed.

Syria's solid position is based on the support of a solid internal front and on our citizens' deep-rooted conviction of President al-Asad's sound position. We realize that the defeat of all the enemy attempts and hostile campaigns will neither check these attempts nor discourage their perpetrators from engaging in them. We also realize that our only weapon against these campaigns and attempts lies in greater internal cohesion and in rallying more around Al-Asad's leadership.

TISHRIN adds: The more fierce the campaigns and hostile attempts, the greater the need to consolidate and organize our internal front. Our people must continue to close ranks and support President al-Asad. They must also never forget the Aleppo massacre as they strive for greater cohesion and solidarity.

The paper says: As citizens who support their country's security, prosperity and the continuation of its pan-Arab role and struggle against the Arab nation's enemies, our primary duty is to foil any scheme aimed at sowing discord in our ranks, to foil any conspiracy against our national unity and to reject all attempts by any party or its agents to cast doubts about our motives.

Under the headline "The U.S. Middle Eastern Fronts," ATH-THAWRAH says: The overt threats U.S. officials have been competing to level at Arab countries in general, and at Arab oil-producing countries in particular, are not merely for local or external consumption. They are linked to a secret scheme for increasing the possibilities of U.S. military intervention in the area's affairs and the occupation of Arab oil sources if needed.

President Carter, whose popularity has dropped sharply in U.S. public opinion polls, wants to fight the Arab nation on several fronts. He believes that a victory on the oil front and the Middle East will open the doors for his reelection to the White House. He has agreed to all these secret and overt schemes because he thinks it will help him achieve his personal objectives. He is also feverishly panting after Israel because he thinks it will help him implement these schemes.

ATH-THAWRAH says: The situation in the Middle East will not stabilize because Israel is implementing the other side of America's two-faced policy in southern Lebanon. It is clearing southern Lebanon of its inhabitants and gradually transforming it into a breach through which it can enter the entire Middle East.

In this tense atmosphere, As-Sadat has been trying to depict himself as the only winner from all that has taken place, despite the fact that everyone knows that Israel has deprived the Egyptian president of everything, even the right to adopt formal decisions.

Thus, the United States continues its big-stick policy and Israel is working under this umbrella to get the Egyptian regime to achieve what was agreed upon at Camp David.

ALGERIA

ENERGY MINISTER COMMENTS ON OPEC PRICE, AID DECISIONS

LD091225 Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 29-30 Jun 79 p 3 LD

[Mohamed Benchicou interview with Algerian Energy Minister Belkacem Nebi in Geneva: "OPEC Is Still United and Maintains Full Solidarity With the Third World"--date not specified]

[Excerpt] EL MOUDJAHID: Minister, would it be right to say that the attempts to divide OPEC and the other Third World countries met with the required response during this 54th conference?

Mr Nebi: Absolutely, such maneuvers are doomed to failure because truth always triumphs. For example, we increased the special fund by 800 millions which means that OPEC is contributing more to the development of the developing countries than most Western countries although its income is 10 times lower.

The attempts to create diversions in Manila were exposed. We resolutely condemned them and raised our contribution to the Third World because we belong to the same camp and share the same fate.

EL MOUDJAHID: The press emphasized the existence of different opinions within OPEC which allegedly even caused a split within the organization. Is this another deliberate exaggeration?

Mr Nebi: OPEC's unity has been maintained despite what some people think and--I will point out again and I cannot stress this enough--this unity is vital to effectively protect the Third World on the one hand and our purchasing power on the other. OPEC's unity is the greatest possible asset. Its consolidation and strengthening will always guide our action within OPEC.

EL MOUDJAHID: As far as prices are concerned, has the revision made after this 54th conference completely remedied the fall in the producing countries purchasing power?

Mr Nebi: The agreement reached by the delegates is part of a dynamic view of price development. We think that in absolute terms it is a very reasonable increase for the consumer countries and remedies many anomalies. However we still have to examine what happens to market prices for all the other products which the Third World exports and imports and which determine its purchasing power and hence that of OPEC.

Certainly with reference to everything which might undermine our development potential the marker crude revision rate is not likely to satisfy everybody.

EL MOUDJAHID: Does that mean that there is still a danger of the producing countries' purchasing power falling despite this revision?

Mr Nebi: It is an established fact that prices are more influenced by the capitalist countries directly or indirectly. As far as we are concerned we maintain that our prices are well below the market prices. OPEC does not determine the prices. It tries to regulate them and to convince the consumer countries of the usefulness of dialog within the United Nations for all other problems relating to the Third World.

LIBYA

PEOPLE'S CONGRESS LEADER RECEIVES SDAR PRIME MINISTER

ID092048 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1530 GMT 9 Jul 79 ID

[Text] Tripoli, 9 July--'Abd al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi, secretary general of the General People's Congress, received at his office this morning Mohamed Lamine Ould Ahmed, prime minister of the Sahran Democratic Arab Republic who is currently on a visit to the Jamahiriyah.

The meeting was attended by the head of the Arab Liaison Office at the General Secretariat of the General People's Congress.

MOROCCO

PRISONERS REPORTEDLY TO BE EXCHANGED WITH ALGERIA

ID091139 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 6 Jul 79 p 1 ID

[ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT dispatch]

[Text] Rabat--ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that efforts are now being made with the backing of Saudi Arabia to exchange prisoners between Morocco and Algeria.

The exchange mission will be carried out under the supervision of officials from the General Secretariat of the Arab Red Crescent and Arab Red Cross societies.

It was also learned that this step has come as a result of Saudi mediation to bring about rapprochement between Morocco and Algeria and to begin peace negotiations with the aim of solving outstanding problems between them, including the Sahara problem.

Discussion of this matter took place at the meeting between King Hassan II, the Moroccan monarch, and Saudi Foreign Minister Amir Sa'ud al-Faysal. The matter was also discussed as a side issue at the meeting of the Jerusalem committee which consists of several Arab and Islamic countries.

Well-informed political sources expect the exchange of prisoners to be followed by contacts to implement the proposed peace.

It was learned that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad had personally taken part in the mediation efforts when he recently visited Algiers. During the visit President Chadli Bendjedid welcomed the opening of a new page [with Morocco].

Observers have noticed that calm has prevailed in the Sahara area for 4 days now.

PLO, SYRIAN OFFICIALS LEAVE AFTER AL-QUDS TALKS

ID091424 Rabat MAP in English 1213 GMT 9 Jul 79 ID

[Text] Casablanca, July 9 (MAP)--Abu Mayzar, member of the PLO's Executive Committee, who led the Palestinian delegation at the [words indistinct] the Al-Quds Committee meeting held (?here last) week, left here Sunday. Abu Mayzar qualified the results of the meeting as being positive on all levels, and emphasized King Hassan II's determination to put an end to the Zionist aggressions against Al-Quds and the other occupied territories.

On the other hand, Salih Gaddur, Syrian deputy foreign minister, who participated in the Al-Quds Committee meeting, also left here Sunday. He indicated to newsmen that the Al-Quds Committee had defined means of action aiming at preserving the Arab-Islamic character of the holy city, and examined the Zionist attempts and policy to Judaize the occupied Arab territories.

Besides, Salih Gaddur paid homage to King Hassan II of Morocco for the efforts he displayed in order to liberate the Arab territories.

BOUCETTA INTERVIEWED ON JERUSALEM ISSUE

LD091416 Rabat MAP in English 1209 GMT 9 Jul 79 LD

[Text] Beirut, July 9 (MAP)--"Arabs must recover peacefully or by force, if it is necessary, the east part of Jerusalem", Moroccan Foreign Affairs Minister M'hamed Boucetta said in an interview published Sunday in Beirut by the magazine MONDAY MORNING.

"We will use all available means", added Boucetta, precising that "when someone has a right, he must defend it".

The Moroccan minister recalled that the Al-Quds Committee meeting, held in Fes under the chairmanship of King Hassan II of Morocco, decided to bring the matter before the United Nations Security Council. He also stated that contacts on this question have been undertaken with the European Economic Community (EEC), the non-aligned countries, and the Orgainization of African Unity (OAU).

WESTERN SAHARA

POLISARIO LEADER OULD AHMED INTERVIEWED BY BUDAPEST RADIO

LD090810 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1800 GMT 8 Jul 79 LD

[Interview with Mohamed Lamine Ould Ahmed, prime minister of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic and member of the POLISARIO Front Executive Committee and Revolution Command Council, conducted by correspondent Alajos Chrudinak, date and place not given--recorded, in Arabic with superimposed Hungarian translation]

[Text] [Question] How old are you?

[Answer] A person's age is assessed by his deeds.

[Question] In your case?

[Answer] My age is the same as that of our revolution.

[Question] So around 32. You became the leader of the Saharan people--the prime minister of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic [SDAR]--at a rather early age. How did you come to deserve to be elected to this high, responsible post by the Saharan people? What did you do? What were you involved in before the SDAR was declared in 1976?

[Answer] It has become a tradition of our revolution to talk about the biography of a liberation fighter only after he is dead. It is the task of history to judge the life of certain people.

I subscribe to the opinion of those who prefer not to chat about the life of individuals who are directing the revolution, but about the struggle of the oppressed people who are fighting for independence and freedom.

[Question] You would prefer not to shed any light on your personal life? [sentence indistinct]

[Answer] If someone dies a martyr in the independence struggle, then he rises toward the light through his martyrdom; but one who is rejected by history will be overshadowed by darkness [words indistinct]

[Question] The situation in the region has recently become extremely tense. Morocco has requested a meeting of the UN Security Council. What is the aim of the Moroccan Kingdom in making this diplomatic move? Morocco is obviously preparing for something. What do you think about this?

[Answer] You are asking what is happening here now. In 1975, the countries of the world regrettably could not stop Morocco's cruel military invasion nor could they prevent the division of our homeland. The Saharan people, who are fighting by themselves, cannot limit their military activity to the Western Sahara, as reinforcements for Moroccan military bases in our occupied towns arrive from Moroccan territory. Therefore, it has become necessary in the interest of self-defense to extend the area of battle to southern Morocco, as we did earlier to almost all of Mauritania, including the capital, Nouakchott. Through these military activities we would like to draw the attention of the Moroccan people to this war of conquest which the Moroccan regime is attempting to keep secret.

The goal of the Moroccan conquest, by the way, is the enormous phosphate deposit in Western Sahara. This is the reason for the war here. Morocco would like to get hold of the Saharan phosphate mines to obtain a monopoly since Morocco itself is a large producer of phosphate. Obviously, it would not be in Morocco's interest to find a competitor in phosphate exports in the future, particularly in its vicinity, and especially if this competitor is waging a war of independence against Morocco and pursues a different political system.

Morocco's appeal to the Security Council completely fits the Western Sahara policy pursued by the ruler in Rabat until now. In falsifying the facts, it is attempting to convince the world that the struggle along the fronts is not between the Saharan people, led by the Popular Front for the Liberation of the Saguia el Hamra and Rio de Oro [POLISARIO], and Morocco, but between Algeria and Morocco. This is because the king of Morocco still cannot defeat the military strength of the POLISARIO.

[Question] Is it possible to envisage the outbreak of war between Morocco and Algeria? Will Morocco attack Algeria after turning to the Security Council, and after spiritual preparation?

[Answer] I do not believe so. How can an army which cannot defeat the armed forces of a people's liberation army wage war against a strong regular army?

However, one can envisage that Morocco will initiate an adventurist lightning war and use it as a pretext to withdraw from the Western Sahara. This sort of adventurism is not unfamiliar to the king of Morocco.

He has always pursued an adventurous policy in the region and has started wars against neighboring peoples several times. Everyone is well acquainted with this in the region. He demands territory from Algeria and asserts a right to northern Mali, Mauritania and Western Sahara also. Regrettably, this expansionist intent is characteristic of his policy.

[Question] The king of Morocco once said that the people of Sahara do not exist. He referred to the mere 50,000 Bedouins who amble around the Western Saharan desert. This is what he thinks of the Saharan people. What is your response to this?

[Answer] The truth is that we are frequently asked this question. My answer is very simple. If the matter only concerned a few nomads in the desert, the Spanish conquerors armed to the teeth could have easily handled 50,000 to 70,000 nomads. Some 60,000 Spanish soldiers fought against us, and if there were actually only 50,000 of us, a Spanish machinegun would have been fixed on every Saharan. They could have slaughtered every one of us. In the end we were the ones who chased them away.

If there are only 50,000 of us, why has Morocco sent 46,000 soldiers against us? Morocco murders dozens of Saharan children, women and old people and still cannot force a desert nomad community estimated to number only 50,000 to its knees. The Saharan people exist and have created a nation since ancient times.

[Question] What is the approximate number of Saharan people?

[Answer] The colonialists were extremely clever and cunning when they deliberately underestimated the number of Saharan people so that they could say that conditions did not justify the creation of a state for the Saharan people. There are over 128,000 Saharan people in Algerian refugee camps, in addition to the population of our occupied towns and the armed forces. Based on surveys in 1977 we estimate the number of Saharans to be 700,000.

[Question] King Hassan II of Morocco has stated many times that his soldiers are fighting not (?against) the Saharans but against Algeria since there are Algerian mercenaries in Western Sahara. What do you say about that?

[Answer] Sahara, particularly the largest part of Western Sahara, is an unproductive plain of bare rock and sand. Therefore, those accustomed to green fields, beautiful woods and fertile valleys in Algeria or Morocco are unable to exist in the Sahara, let alone fight. [sentence indistinct] If the Algerian Army had joined our side 1 or 2 years ago, we would have ended this war long ago and chased out the Moroccans. Not a single Algerian has fought in Western Sahara, nor can you find a single foreign soldier in our ranks: no Algerians, Arabs, Africans or Asians. Only Saharans fight in our army. They are very good soldiers and cause serious losses to intruders.

Obviously the ruler of Morocco is simply not willing to recognize that his huge Moroccan Kingdom is being beaten by a small group of Bedouins, as the king calls us.

[Question] Morocco is endeavoring to exert pressure on Algeria not to support the fight of the Saharans. Should this come to pass, you would be in a very difficult situation.

[Answer] I am convinced that Algeria has a tradition of revolution. Undoubtedly, many people have similar doubts. But do not forget that my people know why and how they must fight. I cannot believe--above all for moral reasons--that the Algerian revolution, no matter what its leaders believed, would withdraw its support from people who have turned to it for assistance in order not to be trampled underfoot and to regain their national dignity. I am convinced of this and the Algerian leaders think this also.

[Question] In your opinion does France really direct and support Morocco's actions and political steps as it does in Mauritania? What would happen if Morocco attacked Algeria? Is it at all possible to envisage this happening in your opinion?

[Answer] To tell the truth, France's actions in all that is happening in this region are reprehensible. Among the great powers it is France which would most like to see the Western Sahara split into two. Moreover, it is participating in the war in practice, militarily, and French policymakers no longer make a secret of this today. Should war break out between Morocco and Algeria, France would side with Morocco without any doubt--this is logical. By the way, two-thirds of the weapons of captured Moroccan soldiers are French. Moroccan ordnance and the weapons of the infantry are also made in France. It depends completely on France whether or not Mauritania would participate in a future war, but I believe that the Mauritanian leaders are not interested in war, for understandable reasons. Tremendous French pressure is, however, being exerted on Mauritania, and also Morocco. At the moment all I can say is that one must be prepared for all this.

[Question] In truth, I think you would be glad should there be an outbreak of war between Morocco and Algeria as it would precipitate your victory and quicken the military defeat of the Kingdom of Morocco.

[Answer] On the contrary, I would not be glad to see an Algerian-Moroccan war. Algeria is building, developing its economy. We would not like it to suffer a military blow as, to tell you the truth, Algeria is our ally. Such a war in my opinion would not solve our problems, and only affect the conflict between Algeria and Morocco. I do not believe that Western Sahara could become independent through such a war, as independence can only be achieved by the Saharan people themselves.

[Question] Is it true that before you became the leader of the liberation movement, you fought as a partisan in the Sahara against the Spanish colonialists and then the Moroccan occupying powers?

[Answer] I am still a partisan.

[Question] Do you take part in military actions even now?

[Answer] If circumstances dictate.

[Question] To which do you give priority: Political negotiations, diplomatic battles or the language of weapons? Where do you feel more at ease, in the conference room or on the battlefield?

[Answer] I am convinced, and all those who lead this revolution are convinced, that political negotiations are of secondary importance. The Saharan people can only achieve their independence through armed struggle. Independent of our diplomatic initiatives, this is the path of the liberation struggle we are treading.

KREISKY-'ARAFAT MEETING CONDEMNED IN 9 JUL KNESSET SESSION

TA091530 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 9 Jul 79 TA

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin bitterly attacked the chancellor of Austria, Kreisky, and Willi Brandt in a statement from the Knesset podium in regard to their meeting with Yasir 'Arafat. The prime minister said that the Palestinian charter is nothing but Mein Kampf No 2. We read the document, we understood it and we will do all in our power to prevent its fulfillment. This is a document, the prime minister said, which wants to destroy Israel. It says, among other things, that there is no connection between Jews and Eretz Yisra'el and this may be the clause which brought Kreisky close to the PLO murderers.

The prime minister dwelt on the PLO methods and, of the hundreds of murders of women, men and children, he singled out the Munich massacre, the attack against Qiryat Shemona, the attack on Ma'alot, the bloody bus in Avivim, the coastal road bus, the attack on Nahariyya, the Lod massacre and the Swissair plane. The person responsible for these acts, the prime minister noted, is received with national honors by the chancellor of Austria. Menahem Begin said he would not refer to Willi Brandt's behavior because he is now a private individual. However, he should know that, were the PLO to win, he, Willi Brandt, would have to kneel again and request the pardon of the Jews as he already did at the Warsaw ghetto.

MK Shim'on Peres spoke after the prime minister and said that the Vienna meeting had come as a surprise and caused shock and regret. It was a danger to the peace process and encouragement to international terror. Peres promised to protest this to the socialist international as well. Peres called the concluding announcement of the Vienna talks a complicated and muddled declaration. He also said that the PLO drew its legitimacy from terror. The president of the state was present in the Knesset gallery and heard the remarks by Begin and Peres. Statements are now being made by representatives of HADASH and Shelli.

Knesset Resolution

TA091632 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 9 Jul 79 TA

[Excerpt] By a vote of 82 Knesset members from all factions, the Knesset adopted a resolution stating that the declared ambition of the organization calling itself PLO is to annihilate the Jewish state, its method being murderous attacks on citizens. The Knesset condemned 'Arafat's invitation to Vienna and Kreisky's reception of the head of the organization of murderers. Four of the MAPAM members--Talmi, Grossman, Feder and 'Amar--abstained. Five HADASH and Shelli members opposed the resolution, and Shulamit Alloni did not take part in the vote.

Reaction of Gaza Notables

TA091956 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 9 Jul 79 TA

[From the Evening Newsreel]

[Text] In Gaza, too, there was satisfaction. The mayor of Gaza, Rashad ash-Shawwa, told our correspondent Bassam Ja'bar that 'Arafat's meeting may convince both of them--Kreisky and Brandt--that there is nothing in the establishment of a Palestinian state which can endanger Israel's security.

[Ja'bar] Notables and public figures in the Gaza Strip underline in their mention of the Vienna deliberations the symbolism of the event more than its practical implications. The mayor of Gaza, Hadj Rashad ash-Shawwa, said that he regarded the meeting as a very positive step toward the clarification of the Palestinian position as it is seen by the PLO. According to him, the face-to-face may lead to an important change in the views of Kreisky and Brandt. Both of them may be convinced, according to Ash-Shawwa, that the establishment of a Palestinian state has nothing in it which could endanger Israel's security.

As opposed to him, the journalist (Zoher ar-Rais) said that the importance of the meeting was in its symbolism. (Ar-Rais) says this meeting is an important turning point and a signpost in the area of dialog with the PLO. According to him, the possibility cannot be dismissed that this step will lead to breaking the freeze prevailing in regard to the matter of the PLO's active participation in the attempts aimed at finding a just solution to the problem of the area through peaceful means.

MADRID PAPER INTERVIEWS BEGIN ON STATUS OF AUTONOMY TALKS

LD091025 Madrid EL PAIS in Spanish 4 Jul 79 p 5 LD

[Juan Luis Cebrian interview in Jerusalem "at the weekend" with Israeli Premier Menahem Begin: "Palestinian State Would Mean Soviet Base in Middle East"]

[Text] Question: What is the present status of the peace talks with Egypt? Will an agreement be reached within the established time limit?

Answer: At present there are some major differences between the Egyptian and Israeli stances. The Egyptians want to start with a declaration of principles, while we believe that this has already been done at Camp David and that we do not need any more declarations of this kind. The important thing now is to negotiate the issue of autonomy of the occupied territories [as published]--how to introduce it gradually and how to implement their demands for self-government, to decide who will have the right to vote, what will be the structure of the parliament and so forth. Of course, autonomy cannot be agreed on unless the Palestinians want it, but I am very confident that progress can be made. In the Camp David agreements it was established that Israel, Egypt, Jordan and the Palestinians must negotiate. Jordan does not want to and the Palestinians are not making an appearance: Why should we not negotiate with Egypt? To do so is at least proof of our good faith.

On 5 July a meeting will open in Alexandria to discuss the details and variants of the Camp David agreement. On 10 July I will go there to speak personally with As-Sadat once again. I hope to have conversations for a day and a half and I am convinced that we will be able to make progress. Experience on previous occasions is that we have always reached some agreement. Why not now? I am very hopeful in this connection.

Question: Are you not afraid that the recent shooting down of Syrian aircraft by Israeli guns could constitute a serious obstacle to these negotiations?

Answer: I do not believe that this issue must necessarily interfere with the conservations, despite Egypt's declaration. Egypt must understand that this is a matter concerning our self-defense. In Lebanon there are 14,000 PLO terrorists with sophisticated Soviet equipment. Do you know what Katyushas are? They are an artillery weapon with 16 projectiles fired simultaneously, a deadly weapon which the terrorists are using to destroy every woman and child in Israel. They want to kill Jews simply because they are Jews.... When we send aircraft against the PLO bases all we are doing is protecting ourselves against their attacks, defending ourselves against them. This is why we are attacking them and will continue to attack them.

Question: What role is Syria playing in this conflict?

Answer: Well, it seems that the Syrians have given the order to bring down our aircraft and so we have ended up with five or six of them. The Syrians have never intervened before.

Question: Are you not afraid of an escalation of war with that country?

Answer: We want to make peace with Syria, we sincerely want to. I am prepared to go to Damascus if necessary. But Syria must understand that it cannot attack our aircraft. The PLO terrorists are not waging a war of liberation--that is not true--and we have the right to defend ourselves. If Syria does not want peace, at least it must not interfere in our actions. Otherwise its aircraft will continue to crash to the ground.

Question: Are you so confident in the Israeli pilots? It is said that you have claimed them to be the best in the world.

Answer: I do not say that they are the best, but that I do not know any better than them.

Question: However, you did intervene in the civil war in Lebanon.

Answer: What we did in Lebanon was to help the Christian community which would otherwise have been annihilated. Without Israel's support, the Lebanese Christians would have been expelled from their homes and exterminated. The West should have understood the problem but nobody wanted to compromise themselves. France did not, neither did Europe: only the State of Israel.

Question: Your policy of establishing Jewish settlements in the area under military administration is being seriously criticized. Do you intend to continue with it?

Answer: Anybody even slightly acquainted with our country will have seen that from the mountains of the West Bank and Golan it is easy to dominate the whole of Israel's territory. It is reasons of security that are prompting us to keep the territories occupied and to oppose the establishment of a Palestinian state. We want to give real autonomy to the West Bank--which comprises Samaria and Judaea--but we insist that Jews and Arabs live there together. If there were only Arabs in autonomy it would be somewhat like confirming the existence, before or after, of the Palestinian state. The Palestinians are in fact agents of Moscow: We have proof of it. This is the document; it is a terrorist's certificate of training with the Soviet Army. I have no doubt that the existence of a Palestinian state would immediately constitute a Soviet base. And you have already seen what the Russians have done in 2 years. They have been victorious in Angola, Mozambique, Ethiopia, Afghanistan, South Yemen and Vietnam.

Just think what they would do with a base in the heart of the Middle East.

Question: Let us pass on to domestic issues. Is inflation your main concern? What is your government doing to reduce it?

Answer: Yes indeed, inflation is a grave concern and we must combat it. On the other hand, it is a worldwide phenomenon and I fear that it is fairly inevitable. Now we have other economic problems requiring immediate attention, especially an enormous housing shortage. In the next 2 years we need to build between 30,000 and 40,000 new homes. We are ready to make an enormous effort in this field. And this is what I have told the minister of building. If necessary, every Sunday I will ask him how many houses have been started during the preceding week.

Question: Are you not afraid that the economic crisis, inflation and the housing problem will seriously jeopardize your chances in the coming elections?

Answer: Obviously if we do not resolve these things we will lose votes. If we lose votes it does not mean that we will lose the elections. And in the final analysis this is a temporary job. Look, on the wall there are portraits of Israel's first five prime ministers. Four of them are now dead. The fifth is my predecessor in this post, the laborite Mr Rabin. I know that this is a temporary job. The worst thing that could happen to me is that they could hang my picture, the sixth portrait, on this wall.

Question: But you do intend to continue.

Answer: Speaking frankly, I would like to stay another 4 years. I am 66, and 70 is a good retirement age. Then I will devote myself to writing a book: "The Generation of Destruction and Resurgence." That's my generation. It will be a long book, in several volumes. It will take a long time to complete, 2-3 years. By then I will be approaching the end of my life.

Question: One can do a great deal in 4 years. What would you like to do during that period if you continue as prime minister?

Answer: To sign a definitive peace treaty with Egypt and Jordan, to establish negotiations with Syria and resolve the issues on the Lebanese border. And also, of course, resolve this country's social and economic crisis.

Question: Do you believe all this is possible?

Answer: Yes, I do believe it is possible. We have seen more impossible things happen.

Question: Finally, let us discuss relations with Spain. Will it be possible to establish them during this period?

Answer: I can only express my regret that they do not already exist. Spain is a democratic country, like ours. The king and the prime minister are aware of our desire to establish relations. When I met recently with Cyrus Vance in London I urged him to demonstrate the validity of our position to the Spanish authorities. But probably your government is too sensitive to the pressures of the Arab countries. Nevertheless, I insist that a Spanish ambassador to Israel would be welcome immediately.

TAMIR INTERVIEWED ON PROSPECTS OF AUTONOMY TALKS

TA061252 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 6 Jul 79 pp 24, 33 TA

[Interview with Justice Minister Shmu'el Tamir by correspondent Dov Goldstein--time and place not given]

[Excerpt] [Question] Mr Tamir, the autonomy committee has met in Egypt, in Israel and again in Egypt and is treading on the spot. It has not even managed to agree on the agenda. Now, with the resumption of the talks in Alexandria, don't you have the feeling that you are sweeping air, and that, apart from talking about what to talk about, there is, in fact, no chance of bridging the huge gap between the Israeli and Egyptian positions on the nature of the autonomy, the authorities of the elected Arab council, Israeli settlements and so forth?

[Answer] No. I do not have that feeling. All the stages we have so far gone through in the negotiations were necessary and unavoidable, and there has not been the slightest waste of time or marking time. We are dealing with the most sensitive and most vital political issue ever faced by a government in Israel. This is an issue which has in practice been linked to the normalization process with Egypt, and the way it is handled can affect that process for good or for ill. And this is an issue which has a direct and fateful connection with what will emerge in Judaea and Samaria. There is no place here for haste. From the outset it was agreed--and signed--that the two sides would try to arrive at agreement within a year of the ratification of the peace agreement. Great importance attaches to the agenda in discussions of this kind, not only with regard to the content of the talks but also where tactical positions in them are concerned.

When you examine this ramified complex, you find that the nature of the talks and their pace to date have definitely been satisfactory. The Egyptian premier, Dr Khalil, was right when he told an Israeli interviewer that all the preliminary clarifications are important and contribute directly to the negotiating teams' getting to know one another and to their capacity for maintaining a dialog. I would add that Egypt's heedful listening to our problems, and our hearing what their problems are--is essential. Moreover, in the course of clarifying the procedural questions all of us were also able to become closely acquainted with the large issues with which we'll have to deal and for which we'll now have to find solutions--against the backdrop of the peace treaty and the peaceful relations between Israel and Egypt.

The fact is that neither the Americans nor the Egyptians are complaining of any foot-dragging, and both foreign elements and oppositionist elements within Israel confirm that the stand we have taken--that is, to discuss the concrete questions relating to the autonomy plan and not general formulations concerning principles or declarations--is a just stand, flowing from the Camp David accords, and is also a realistic position to take.

[Question] But the Egyptians first demand agreement on a declaration of principles and they proposed such a declaration to Israel. What does Israel find unacceptable in their proposals?

[Answer] In many places their proposed formulations differ from what was agreed on at Camp David and from the joint As-Sadat-Begin letter to President Carter. Without wearying the reader with details--the very raising of this proposal is both unjust and unnecessary.

All the principles on which the sides could agree were set out in the Camp David agreements. The agreement reached contains a lengthy preamble which is in fact a series of declarations, principles and goals. Many long months were required to arrive at that document, which the two sides succeeded in agreeing on, with the help of the United States, at a summit conference. What logic is there to try to draw up a new document now, and get involved in another protracted and difficult discussion? And what justification is there for abruptly dispensing with an agreement which was attained only after the soundless efforts of all the parties?

[Question] Perhaps it is because from the outset the formulation of the Camp David agreement was vague, leaving a lot of room for interpretation, that the Egyptians are not attempting to interpret things according to their requirements?

[Answer] Like many international agreements, this accord is in fact amenable to various interpretations. This is the virtue of the agreement and, in the nature of things, also its weakness. Its virtue lies in the fact that this formulation allowed it to be signed--despite the conflicting positions--and the signing of the treaty with Egypt as well. Its weakness is that each side will try to stamp its own interpretations on it. When all is said and done, the achievement of the agreement was that it enabled a breakthrough to be made, with the clear knowledge of the agreement's weak points. To try to draw up a new document now, in place of the existing agreement, would constitute a threat to the existing agreement.

[Question] Without, as you say, wearying the readers with details, what is it that the Egyptians want in the declaration of principles that Israel cannot accept, and what is it that deviates from the Camp David agreement?

[Answer] I can't go into details, but if we are suddenly confronted with a formulation such as "the Palestinian problem is the nucleus of the Middle East conflict," we do not accept this and we will not make declarations of this kind. As far as we are concerned, the Palestinian problem exists, but the true nucleus of the conflict is the refusal of the Arab rejection states to recognize Israel's existence. Or if, for example, we find in the Egyptian proposal for a declaration of principles a formulation stating that "the Palestinians have a right to self-determination without external intervention," we will not accept this. That formulation was not accepted at Camp David, is not contained in the agreement attained there, and the distance between it and a Palestinian state in Judaea and Samaria and Gaza is a very small one.

And when the Egyptians propose to refer now, in the declaration of principles, to issues which by the terms of the Camp David accords are to be discussed only 3 years hence, after the establishment of the autonomy regime, concerning the permanent status of Judaea and Samaria and the Gaza District--not only is all this a substantive deviation from the Camp David agreement, and not only is it totally unacceptable to the government and to most of the parliamentary forces outside the Coalition, but it is also liable to turn the political clock back and adversely affect the great process of peace--the desire to maintain the peace being, I believe, common to the Egyptians, the Americans and ourselves. Hence our stand in favor of opening the talks with the concrete issues of the autonomy plan. I feel that despite the skill being shown in the talks by our Egyptian colleagues, both they and the Americans know that our arguments rest on the most solid, unshakable footing.

[Question] But even if the Egyptians--perhaps under U.S. influence-- agree to forgo the declaration of principles and begin deliberations on concrete issues concerning the autonomy, it is then that the chasm between the positions will be revealed; they demand abolishing the military government and giving the autonomy the right to self-government. Israel opposed this and demands to maintain total military and police supervision to prevent hostile organization against Israel. Egypt opposes this. Then there is the question of control of water sources. And I haven't said anything yet about the big issue of settlements. Do you sincerely believe that there is a reasonable chance of overcoming the gaps?

[Answer] I believe that, if not in this week's talks in Alexandria, then at the next session in Herzliyya--following next week's Begin-As-Sadat meeting--the following situation will emerge: It will be decided to begin talks on the concrete issues related to the autonomy plan. There will be a deep gap between the approaches and concepts, and the Egyptian and Israeli interpretations will be miles apart--but the concrete discussion will get underway. The negotiations will be a hundred times more complex and more complicated than the Israeli-Egyptian peace talks. But there's also a great challenge here, because the success of this negotiation will draw us closer to the expansion of the circle of peace in the Mideast.

As regards the prospects for success: Had you asked the Israelis, the Egyptians and the Americans years ago whether anyone believed that within 2 years a peace treaty would be signed between Israel and Egypt--what would the answer have been? I am among those who, since the establishment of the state, have rejected the assumption that there will be no peace in this generation. Today after the signing of the peace treaty with Egypt, I believe this all the more strongly. Certainty? Of course there's no certainty. Especially when one sees how closely our interlocuters stick to their stands, while we know that we must conduct these negotiations with maximum caution and with a sense of the weight of the responsibility which has probably never been greater. Nonetheless, I reiterate that there is a chance to bridge the gaps and we must exhaust all efforts to make that chance work.

[Question] Robert Strauss, President Carter's personal representative to the talks, has repeatedly stated openly that Israeli settlements are an obstacle to peace. So the tour he made of Israeli settlements in Samaria did not help. Could you please tell us frankly: As a minister who voted in the Cabinet against Elon More, do you conceive of the possibility that Egypt can agree, against the U.S. position, that Israel can continue its settlement policy within the autonomy fra.ework? Is this serious? Can a reasonable person conceive of such a thing?

[Answer] You have fired a few questions at me at once. I shall reply to all of them.

A) I was very impressed by Mr Strauss' personality and my talks with him. I feel that we will be able to work together in a good spirit and usefully. It is precisely because of this that I can say openly: Mr Strauss should not have taken a stand on the settlements issue at this early stage. It would have been better for him to go on studying the issues before taking a stand.

B) Did the tour help? I am convinced that it did. I was present when the guests, headed by Mr Strauss, were recounting their impressions following the tour.

There is nothing like seeing something, and I as a jurist--and Mr Strauss is a jurist--know how important it is to study the field as the basis for additional information. That additional and extensive information has not yet been transmitted to Mr Strauss. Mr.Strauss underwent the same experience that everyone does who has eyes in his head: He stood on the hills of Tulkarm and Qualqiliya and saw Israel's narrow waits of 12-14 kms. In the 1967 lines, in the area where most of Israel's population and industry lie. When one stands there and sees, one just cannot deny Israel's survival problem, which stems from the topographical situation and from the geographical partition as it existed until June 1967. After this kind of tour someone can either accept your stand or continue to argue with you--but he certainly has a better grasp of Israel's position on the key security issue which has guided and continues to guide every responsible person concerned for Israel's elementary security.

C) It is true that I voted in the Cabinet for Yiga'el Yadin's appeal against the establishment of Elon More. More I cannot say on this. I have consistently held that a Cabinet decision binds the minority no less than it does the majority. As long as one continues to serve in the Cabinet, one must hold one's clarifications with one's colleagues at the Cabinet table and not outside it. The more so when the Elon More issue is pending before the Supreme Court. However, let me say in general terms: On the settlement issue there are legitimate, important and meaningful arguments concerning the exact location and timing of the settlements. We are also limited in manpower and financial resources. But on the principle of settlements throughout Eretz Yisra'el, on both sides of what was the green line, there are no differences of opinion in the Cabinet. This principle is also accepted by most of the Labor Party MK's. Can anyone expect that we, of our own free will, should agree that extensive areas of Western Eretz Yisra'el should be Judenrein? That this is part of the peace process? And even those who disagree with us and speak of a Palestinian state--what brazenness they have to say to us that 600,000 Arab citizens can live Israel but not one Jew can live in Judaea or Samaria. Jews can live in Paris and in London--and not in Western Eretz Yisra'el?

To argue over how extensively, where and when to settle--that is legitimate. But to deny the principle that Jews have right to settle in Eretz Yisra'el and to say that this is an obstacle to peace--this makes every fiber of one's being bristle. I have explained all this to foreign elements too, but the truth is that the Western pressure on the government on this issue originates more internally than externally.

[Question] Your lesson in Zionism no doubt entrances all those who hear it. But what's to be done when the entire world, including broad sections of U.S. Jewry, believes that peace and settlements--or even autonomy and settlements--and mutually exclusive notions? How long can Israel stand alone in this campaign?

[Answer] I would like to reply to this as the fourth answer to your question: We must be aware of world public opinion, both Jews and non-Jews. We will err in our political decisions if we do not take into account this important factor. But we must also be aware that there are some key red lines beyond which Israel must take a stand of firm resolve, even if this leads to isolation and disagreement by its friends.

For example, one might ask: You want full sovereignty in united Jerusalem even though the entire Muslim world and most of the non-Muslim world, including the United States, do not recognize your sovereignty there? And the answer is: Yes. Yes. Yes.. Despite what the world says and claims, on this matter we will not yield. And the same applies to a whole series of issues on which Israel cannot just give in in order to curry favor with countries and governments.

And now to your question of whether I believe that there is a chance of reaching agreement with Egypt without Israel's foregoing its right to settle in practice--yes. I definitely conceive of an agreement with Egypt on the autonomy plan which will not adversely affect Israel's right of settlement in Judaea and Samaria and Gaza. In the Camp David accords Israel assumed no commitment whatsoever to refrain from settlement beyond the first 3 months after that agreement. Our stand is reinforced by both the formulation and the spirit of the agreement. We are speaking of an agreement which has two parties, and I regret to have to say that both the Egyptians and the Americans are treating Israel's capacity to stick to the strength of its arguments more respectfully than are some Jews in Israel.

This argument--"after all, they won't agree"--where does it end? After all, most of the Arab states still do not agree that we have the right to exist here as an independent state. And on the other hand, would Israeli agreement to withdraw to the June 1967 borders and to relinquish half of Jerusalem be the end of the matter? If we agreed to all this, would Syria and Libya and Iraq and the Palestinians sign a peace with us and make do with that? Is there anyone who believes that they wouldn't demand the return of the refugees and the 1947 partition lines? I would be happy to hear from the Peace Now people what their border is? On what are you ready to say: No, not that. From this point there can be absolutely no budging.

We are conducting negotiations with Egypt between two parties and not a process where we accept dictates. Israel gave Egypt peace. Egypt gave Israel peace. But in the central sector only Jordan can give us peace, not Egypt. The negotiations with Egypt, by their nature, are going to be a difficult coping with demands that most Israelis are not willing to accept.

[Question] On the eve of this week's Alexandria talks, do you not have the feeling that the talks are approaching a point of crisis? Do you believe the breakthrough will come?

[Answer] The road is not blocked. The clarifications were good. The Egyptians tried to get something that deviates from the Camp David accords. They may try: We must not concur. I still hold that the Egyptians must be given all the credit that they will honor their signature on the peace treaty and will maintain all its clauses as written. All the signs are that they will be convinced that there is no chance of convincing Israel to agree to declarations beyond the Camp David accords and to pay again for the same quid pro quid.

PRIME MINISTER BEGINS LEAVES FOR ALEXANDRIA 10 JUL

TA100937 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 10 Jul 79 TA

[Excerpt] The prime minister took off a few minutes ago for Alexandria, for talks with the president of Egypt. He will return to Israel the day after tomorrow. He will be received at the airport at noon by the Egyptian vice president.

KHOMEYNI ANNOUNCES AMNESTY FOR MEMBERS OF ARMED FORCES

LD091332 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0930 GMT 9 Jul 79 LD

[Text] Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the Iranian Islamic revolution, has issued a message on the occasion of mid-Sha'ban [current month in Muslim calendar]. Here is the text of the message:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. On 9 July 1979, I congratulate all Muslims and the oppressed on the occasion of the glorious anniversary of the imam of Muslims, the essence of creation, the heir of the Prophet, the guardian of the time.

Due to the harm inflicted on Islam and Muslims, this occasion was suspended last year. Despite the fact that the collaborators of the monarchy were trying stop the nation from (?doing their Islamic duties), fortunately, thank God, they did not succeed. However, this year celebrations are being held most gloriously, and the massive religious ceremonies have dealt a heavy blow to the antagonists, thus making both East and West despondent and rejecting their labyrinthine plots. These rotten roots must now realize that their convulsive deeds will serve no purpose other than to disgrace them and their criminal bosses. Our epoch-making nation, which buried the satanic forces empty-handed, shall also bury these rotten roots.

I warn the misled who have taken a stand against the nation in various guises and who are engaged in sabotage in favor of the aliens to return to the cohesive ranks of the nation before it is too late and before their crimes and treason have been proved. I warn you against God's punishment which is being administered by the powerful hand of the nation..

I now deem it necessary to make a few points, while expressing my abundant gratitude to the great nation of Islam from the inception of the great Islamic movement to this date, when celebrations are held for the great imam:

1. I have repeatedly pointed out that we must build an Iran which can exercise political, military, cultural and economic independence without dependence on the United States, the USSR or Britain, those dominant international forces, and is able to stand on its own feet; an Iran which can present its own genuine identity to the world. Alas, there are still a number of intellectuals who are unable to detach themselves from West or East, which they hold up as an example for their deeds. We hope that as a result of the changes brought about by the dominant Islamic culture, these preoccupied groups who are alienated from the people might come to their senses and free themselves from dependence.

2. All those accused of certain acts under the former regime are to be pardoned, with the exception of those who have committed murders or who have issued orders for such acts. This includes those who have tortured our revolutionary prisoners. A body faithful to the Islamic revolution will be responsible for determining such crimes.

3. The protection of any country's independence and security, as well as the survival of political, social and economic aspects, whether directly or indirectly, is the responsibility of its security forces--the army, gendarmerie and police. As for our country, which is in a state of revolution, side by side with the security forces, the guardians of the revolution are also present; these guardians are engaged in safeguarding the revolution.

Consequently, our noble nation must try to safeguard these security and active forces with all its might and spare no efforts in supporting them, for these forces are now in the service of Islam and [word indistinct]. As these security forces are in the service of the creator and creation, they must live under secure and peaceful conditions, while maintaining their soldierly morale. Meanwhile, while they are soldiers of Islam, they also benefit from the favors of the guardian of the time [the last imam]; therefore the three branches of the armed forces are thus being pardoned, and I and the noble people forgive them. Naturally, the exceptions noted in clause one, above, also apply in this case. However, until such time as their guilt is proved within the context of the religious law, no one has the right to cause them any trouble. As for those accused of crimes not covered by the amnesty, they should be handed over to the revolutionary court by the army, gendarmerie and police. Therefore, no one is allowed to cause them any problems.

4. In view of the fact that our struggling nation has found the secret of victory and has realized that the general mobilization started from the (?divine) trenches in the mosques and religious sources, it is therefore necessary to safeguard these Islamic trenches. Consequently, during these sensitive and fateful moments, coinciding with the blessed month of Ramadan, assemblies in mosques and religious centers must be held with ever greater splendor. As for the clergy and the esteemed preachers, they must take steps to enlighten the people and neutralize the plots hatched by the traitors and collaborators of the aliens, and thus protect and enhance the great Islamic movement. The noble nation, too, should stop the greed entertained by the parasitic aliens.

5. It is necessary for the nation to realize that we are only halfway toward victory. The final victory will be realized only when the rotten roots of the former regime and its supporters are uprooted and the greed of the plunderers in our country brought to an end. As for the Islamic Republic, only when its context is 100 percent Islamic will it be truly realized. Furthermore, in a majority of cases, the teachings of the holy Koran and almighty God must be carried out and made free from satanic laws, and the deviationist elements must despair of hatching any plots. All this can only take place by the will of God and the noble efforts of the nation. God is with you.

6. Among the factors which might weaken the Islamic government are the things spread among the people. These issues and reports are then pursued by the media, and then the government is subjected to unfounded criticism; thus attempts are made to discredit the government before the people. Our friends are oblivious of this plot, while the enemies are lying in wait. I am not saying that the government has been 100 percent successful, but I do say that it is in the service of the people and is trying to serve them. However, the magnitude of the damage is such that it cannot be put right immediately. Unfounded criticism [as heard] and use of our freedom as well as the deeds of those interested in Islam and the country should be applied to guide the government, support it and keep it free of the propaganda put out by the enemies.

7. What worries me is that our nation might become arrogant, like a victorious army, thus becoming subjected to erosion and division from within; what worries me is that our opponent or opponents, like a big defeated army, are engaged in mobilizing their forces in a calculated manner, contrary to the situation which prevailed prior to the victory. The consequences of this would be shattering. I humbly and urgently call on all relations and national strata, the Islam-loving people, the nation and (?countries) to reorganize themselves as they were prior to the victory. I call on them to avoid discord or factions at this sensitive moment, for such discords are tantamount to suicide and might, God forbid, harm the movement.

Dear friends, today everything we have is exposed to danger--danger from unwise and discord-sowing friends or from plotting enemies by means of calculated plans. Wake up, for safe-guarding the victory and the movement is definitely more difficult than victory and the (?launching) of the movement. May God bless Islam and the Muslims.

[Signed] Ruhollah Musavi Khomeyni.

TEHRAN REPORTS MILITARY POLICE CHIEF DISMISSED

LD091334 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1239 GMT 9 Jul 79 LD

[Text] On the basis of an order issued by the defense minister of the Iranian Islamic Republic, Brig Gen 'Azizollah Amir Rahimi [chief of military police] has been dismissed from his position. He is replaced by Colonel Delnavaz.

AFP Report

NC091505 Paris AFP in English 1456 GMT 9 Jul 79 NC

[Text] Tehran, July 9 (AFP)--Iranian Military Police Chief, 'Azizollah Amir Rahimi, has been sacked, Iranian radio announced today. But General Amir Rahimi, who earlier claimed to have foiled an assassination attempt against him, said he refused to stand down.

The general told AFP that he had received orders from the holy city of Qom to stay at his post and he would only leave if instructed by the Ayatollah Khomeyni himself.

He said his sacking and replacement by an unnamed colonel was part of the plot hatched inside the army which he earlier described as "designed to strike at the revolution."

A few days ago the general came in for criticism from NCO's and air force technicians who had demonstrated against their living conditions and demanded that decisions in the armed forces should be taken collectively.

NEW IRAQI AMBASSADOR ARRIVES IN TEHRAN

LD091813 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 9 Jul 79 LD

[Text] According to sources at the Iraqi Embassy, Ahmad Husayn as-Samarra'i, the new Iraqi ambassador to Iran, arrived in Tehran about noon today. He was given a welcome at the airport.

FIRE BREAKS OUT AGAIN ON AGHA JARI-ABADAN PIPELINES

LD091202 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0930 GMT 9 Jul 79 LD

[Hoseyn Khoshsima dispatch from Abadan]

[Text] Fire broke out again today at 1000 at the point where the explosion occurred on the gas and oil pipelines between Agha Jari and Abadan on the Sar Bandar road.

The flames reached an enormous height, while the director general of the Abadan refineries announced this morning that the fire had been extinguished last night and that fitters from Abadan refineries had been sent to the location to repair the pipeline.

This morning the mayor of the Port of Imam Khomeyni--formerly known as Shahpur--told us by telephone that the repair operations had been halted because the fire had started again. Therefore we contacted the director general of the Abadan refineries. He said that the fitters had set fire to the area around the pipeline intentionally to enable them to begin reconstructing the pipeline.

In Abadan the chief of the Sar Bandar highway patrol has announced that because of the spread of the fire and the amount of dust on the road, drivers who intend to use the road between Mahshar and Abadan should take the utmost care and leave their headlights on.

The director general of the Abadan refineries announced today that the gas and oil pipelines between Agha Jari and Abadan carry both the gas fuel used by the Abadan refineries and about 110,000 barrels of crude oil per day from Agha Jari to these refineries. Now, because of the explosion in the gas and oil pipelines, the flow of these materials has been stopped, thus reducing the output of oil from the Abadan refineries by about 100,000 barrels per day. He added that in order to compensate for this reduction in the domestic market, in the first place, we are using black oil as the fuel for the refineries, and in the second place we are using the existing crude oil in our stores at these refineries to produce the usual oil products.

On the causes of the explosion, the director general of the refineries said that in accordance with common law in such situations, a board of experts is examining the cause or causes of the accident; the results of these examinations have not been announced yet. At present, in order to resume the traffic flow between Mahshar and Abadan, a dirt road has been made stretching over 10 km to enable the drivers to avoid the area of the explosion.

Damage to be Repaired

LD091934 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 9 Jul 79 LD

[Text] Oil technicians who have been sent to the site of the explosions on the oil pipelines have expressed the hope that tonight after bringing the fire under control they can start repair work on the pipelines. We have a report concerning this matter.

The public relations officer of the oil industry in Abadan who was present this afternoon at the site of the explosions said: Despite the severity of the fire, the technicians who have been sent to the area have the operation under control. As was announced earlier, the fire will continue until all the oil which is flowing in the pipes burns out. Only after all the oil burns out can the technicians in charge of repairing the pipelines--all Iranian technicians of NIAO--start their work of welding and joining the sections which have exploded.

The public relations officer of the oil company, in answer to the question of how long the fire would continue and when the technicians could start their repair work, said: The oil and gas still in the pipelines after the flow of oil was cut off, due to the extreme heat of the area, has flowed to the site of the explosions with great pressure.

This is why, although the fire was extinguished last night, with the increase in temperature, the fire started again at 1000 today. The technicians are hopeful that by tonight, when the fire is extinguished, the oil and gas which was left in the pipes will completely burn out, and sc repair work may start immediately.

The deputy director of public relations of the Abadan refinery [name indistinct] was asked: Since the pipes which carried both the fuel gas and the oil to the Abadan refinery are now out of operation due to the explosion, how will the gas and the crude be sent to the refinery? Will this situation have an effect on the products and will it have a negative effect in the domestic market? He replied: since the gas and crude required by the refinery have been cut off, black oil [presumably mazut] has been used instead as the fuel for the refinery, and in this way the operations at the oil refinery in Abadan have not been stopped. Concerning the crude required by the refinery, he said: the Abadan refinery refines 440,000 barrels of crude daily, and now due to this incident the refinery's production has been cut only by 7,000 barrels. By making use of the available stocks at the refinery, we can make good even that deficit.

The highway patrol station in Sar Bandar which is located a few kilometers from the site of the explosion announced that as the explosion has affected the oil and gas pipes under the Avash bridge on the highway between Abadan and Mahshahr, this bridge has been damaged and cannot be used. Therefore, drivers who wish to travel on this road must use the 10 KM of dirt road which have been constructed near the site of the explosion. Due to the dust storms in the area and to travel on the dirt track which adds to the amount of dust in the air, drivers who wish to use the road must take utmost care.

For the radio and television of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Khuzestan Center, this was Shahriver Bahram Aflaki.

AMBASSADOR DISCUSSES GAS SUPPLIES TO USSR

LD090915 Tehran ETTLA'AT in Persian 27 Jun 79 p 3 LD

[PARS correspondent Tehran interview with Mohammad Mokri, Iranian Ambassador to the USSR--date not given]

[Text] Before leaving for Moscow Dr. Mohammad Mokri, ambassador of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Soviet Union, who is also accredited to Mongolia, told a PARS correspondent in a discussion of Iran-Soviet relations: "With vigilance and logical knowledge of all aspects of this relationship, we are endeavoring to secure Iran's interests in various areas".

With respect to the second gas pipeline, Mokri said: "The second gas pipeline through the Soviet Union, which provides fuel for part of the major industries and also for Eastern Europe and makes the industries of these countries dependent on us, gives us this opportunity to ask something of our northern neighbor in return: that Iran be able to purchase cargo ships and, during seasons when the Volga river is unfrozen and navigable, gain access through the river to the Black Sea and the Mediterranean, thus benefitting from a cheaper and shorter route to Europe."

Mokri added: "We see no problem even for the third gas pipeline, that is, for the Sarakhs Field, to provide energy and fuel for some of the industries of the Central Asian republics, passing through Turkmenistan, Tadzhikstan, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan.

Of course, this project can be discussed, pending our securing every aspect of defense readiness in the Middle East, and on condition that for practical purposes our northern neighbor does not allow the slightest suspicion to remain as far as the people of Iran are concerned. The securing of Iran's interests is of particular importance to us and must not be purchased at any price.

NIOC TO ACCEPT CURRENCIES OTHER THAN DOLLAR

LD081729 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 8 Jul 79 LD

[Text] Mr 'Ali Ardalan, the minister of economic affairs and finance, announced today that countries which purchase Iran's oil may henceforth pay for the oil in currencies other than the dollar and deposit them in the Iranian Government account. Ardalan said the NIOC will accept currencies such as the Deutsche mark, yen, franc or any other valid currency acceptable to the Iranian Government in place of the dollar.

He added: Following the nationalization of industries and enterprises, healthy industrial investments should be encouraged and strengthened by allocating credits for such units, as this will be in the national interest. He said counterrevolutionary elements and those who have somehow fled Iran are active outside the country in an effort to make Iran's economy look as if it were a destroyed or a bankrupt one. At present the Iranian Government's view is that foreign banks' confidence should be insured through the nationalized banks and by proving that we are in a good position from the financial standpoint. This, of course, can be achieved by repaying Iran's debts on schedule.

He added: On the other hand, bearing in mind the country's foreign exchange resources and the government's financial strength, contacts have been made with foreign economic officials and it has been explained to them that Iran is not a country that lacks creditworthiness.

In reply to a PARS question as to how the credits earmarked for industrial units would be spent, the minister said: Clearly, the private sector will be able to use such credit allocations to the level of its absorptive capacity. Should there be any surplus, the government will use it in the interest of improving the national economy.

Ardalan further said: With the nationalization of banks and industry, government funds--which used to be concentrated in the Central Bank and Bank Melli--will now be deposited in all the banks. With the nationalization of insurance firms, some of the weaker ones will be merged with stronger ones so that a balance may be brought about in the insurance field. Of course, following the nationalization of insurance firms, we have yet to decide about insurance representatives and brokers. As regards the employment status of insurance employees, he said their status will be unified and will be brought under a common umbrella of insurance firms, not under the regulations governing state employment.

ESFAHAN STEEL PLANT BUILDING CATCHES FIRE

LD091424 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0930 GMT 9 Jul 79 LD

[Text] The spokesman of the steel plant in Esfahan announced that at 1600 last Wednesday, the building situated on part of the concrete site of the steel plant in Esfahan caught fire. The fire is said to have started by the combustion of concrete molds, and the experts have said that the cause of the fire was mainly accidental.

INA: CONSTRUCTION WORK STOPS AT NUCLEAR STATIONS

JN072004 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1942 GMT 7 Jul 79 JN

[Text] Tehran, 7 July--'Abbas Taj, Iranian minister of energy, has declared that work has stopped at the two nuclear stations in Bushehr and Ahvaz.

The Iranian minister added that the stoppage took place because the contractors were not being paid any money.

Minister Taj explained that the appropriate Iranian authorities are studying the situation at the stations and will take the necessary steps concerning their future.

GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN ON CABINET BUDGET DISCUSSIONS

LD091454 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1230 GMT 9 Jul 79 LD

[Text] Government spokesman Sadeq Tabataba'i, commenting on the Council of Ministers' meeting last night, told a PARS reporter: The meeting was in connection with the country's general budget. In this regard, allocations for various ministries were also discussed.

Referring to tonight's meeting of the Council of Ministers and the continued debate on the budget, he said: Every attempt is being made to reduce the deficit in this budget as compared with last year's budget. To achieve this, it is necessary to make economies in various organizations and agencies.

HIGH SCHOOL EXAMS HALTED BECAUSE OF DISTURBANCES

LD071959 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1830 GMT 7 Jul 79 LD

[Text] According to some reports and following a number of visits to various centers where final examinations for the fifth and sixth years of high school are being held under the old educational system, certain disturbances and disorders have been noticed.

These acts are contrary to Islamic standards and those of the Iranian Islamic revolution.

Consequently, until further notice, all examinations in Tehran, Karaj, Varamin, Damavand, [placename indistinct] and Shahriar have been stopped.

ENTEZAM BACKS BAZARGAN FOR PRESIDENCY

LD091438 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0930 GMT 9 Jul 79 LD

[Excerpts] Amir 'Abbas Entezam, the Islamic Republic's ambassador in Sweden, spoke to our correspondent in a radio-television interview about the current affairs of the country.

Amir Entezam said: In spite of all the troubles facing the government, I think the future of this country is quite hopeful.

If the government succeeds in resolving the unemployment crisis and providing security for the lives and possessions of the people and their legal and judicial rights, there will be no concern for the future.

Amir Entezam said: In my opinion, the best and most suitable person for the presidency is Eng Mehdi Bazargan, because he has served the people of this country with honesty.

Amir Entezam further said: I feel that many of the rules and regulations and relations set in the past should be reformed; because, basically, rules and regulations are to maintain the stability of a society and to facilitate the smooth running of the country and the restoration of peace. If these rules and regulations cause delay in the work, then they should be abolished.

ISLAMIC ASSOCIATIONS OF TEHRAN GARRISONS ISSUE STATEMENT

LD070914 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0630 GMT 7 Jul 79 LD

[Text] The Islamic associations of Tehran's garrisons have issued the following statement: These associations believe in an Islamic ideology based on monotheism. With faith in the principle of the imamate and Red 'Alawi Shi'ism [presumably reference to "Qizilbash" movement set up by the Safavid Dynasty, members of which wore red hats] and with support for the authoritative guidance provided by the true ulema of Islam, the associations follow the directions laid down by the Imam Khomeyni at this juncture in time. These associations do not belong to any political party, group or faction.

The following associations and societies attended the decision-making sessions: Jey Barracks, Ground Forces Barracks in Lavizan, Central First Infantry Division Barracks in Qasreh Kiruzeh, Farahabad Education Barracks, the country's geographical organization, the Army Engineers Department, national defense industries, the Guards, armaments construction workers, the General Staff, and air force units including the (?Hor) Base, Mehrabad Base No 1, Mehrabad South Base, Mehrabad Staff Quarters, Qal'eh Morghi, the motorized staff, electronics surveillance intelligence, central support, the F-27 unit, tactical radar stations, communications, Doshan Tappeh Staff Quarters, Revolution Barracks, the education center and the helicopter construction unit.

FOREIGN JOURNALISTS ESTABLISH ASSOCIATION

LD071213 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0930 GMT 7 Jul 79 LD

[Text] According to a PARS report, a group of journalists, writers, press photographers and news teams from international television centers who are active in Iran met at the PARS press center yesterday afternoon for the purpose of establishing an association. They studied and debated the contents of the association's constitution.

During this session, which was held at 1530 under the temporary chairmanship of Andrew Whitley, former BBC correspondent and presently correspondent of the London FINANCIAL TIMES, a total of 18 foreign journalists and radio and television reporters resident in Iran approved the 11 articles of the association's constitution. After the approval of the constitution, voting took place to elect the association's leaders.

Andrew Whitley from the FINANCIAL TIMES was elected chairman of the association. [passage indistinct]

UNDERSECRETARY REPORTS ON FOREIGN MINISTRY MEETING

LD091715 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 1 Jul 79 p 3 LD

[Unattributed report on 30 June statement by Foreign Ministry Political Undersecretary 'Ali Sadeqi]

[Excerpts] Speaking of the boycott by certain groups and parties of the Thursday meeting at the Foreign Ministry, 'Ali Sadeqi [ministry political undersecretary] said: Whenever a party is invited to a meeting, it has the right to attend or not. Some of the parties availed themselves of this legal right. It was said by some that an invitation to various parties and groups was tantamount to official recognition of such parties by the government. I do not think this is so, since it war previously announced that this was a consultative meeting, and the government may consult with minorities of even three or four persons.

Speaking of the exclusion of certain groups and parties from the meeting, 'Ali Sadeqi, political undersecretary for foreign affairs, said: Some groups were not admitted because their leaders were representatives in the dissolved parliament and it was felt that they sould not be invited.

Concerning the reaction of some political groups following the conclusion of the meeting, including the view that it had been a propaganda exercise, 'Ali Sadeqi said: As far as I know, only a very small number of people said this, and the form the meeting took shows that it was not a propaganda exercise. The press was not invited to attend in order to avoid the fabrication of publicity material out of an ordinary consultative meeting; the aim was only consultation. This was a simple meeting and we did not want to turn it into the political or publicity topic of the day. We only invited PARS, to prepare a short report. For a while, there was also discussion as to whether the radio and television should also be involved--we have the tapes of the meeting, of course.

On the subject of what results the meeting produced, he said: It was a very useful meeting. We wished to take in all views so that we might prepare an approach with deeper insight. Since many newspapers discuss matters critically, when the party representatives met, we had the opportunity of studying what they were saying, and unfortunately we found that there was hardly anything we had not thought about. This is what we found really interesting.

Another point which was very important was the change in international politics following the SALT II agreement, which necessitates study and analysis.

We observe that American Marxists, up to 3 days before the revolution, were calling the basic conflict a Stalinist one and saying that our revolution had something of a religious flavor, which did not detract from its value, and that they did not consider religion counterrevolutionary. They maintained this view up to the last moment, but suddenly they began to talk of the "defense of the Soviet Union and Cuba", calling communist countries "workers' countries." This 180-degree turnabout may be the basis for a change in world politics. From the crystallization of groups within a country, we may reckon the extent of changes of direction in the world politics of the superpowers.

JURISTS DEMAND INVESTIGATION INTO POLITICAL PRISONERS' CONDITIONS

LD091459 Tehran AYANDEGAN in Persian 4 Jul 79 p 1 LD

[Excerpts] The Executive Board of the Iran Jurists Association, in a letter to the minister of justice containing protests and expressing great concern at recent arrests, demands a rapid investigation into the condition of political prisoners in Iran.

The text of this letter reads as follows:

To his excellency Ahmad Sadr Haj-Seyyed-Javadi, the honorable minister of justice:

At this moment, a number of the country's outstanding men and women, who up to the victory of the revolution were in the ranks of those fighting the regime, have been arrested on various pretexts and are now languishing in detention under harsh and unpleasant conditions and in a state of uncertainty. Hardly a day goes by without their worried friends and families coming to us and requesting help and action in defense of these political prisoners, or new reports reaching us of arrests by self-interested elements of people who are not antirevolutionary, and who fought for the success of the revolution, or reports of unseemly behavior, contrary to basic rights and human standards, towards revolutionary groups, individuals and organizations.

We had firm hopes that after the revolution, with the establishment of a government which enjoyed the confidence of the people, bitter past memories such as the violation of the dignity of human beings would not be repeated and that the problem of political prisoners would no longer exist. If--through negligence, misinterpretation, misunderstanding or error--such incidents should occur, they should be speedily remedied and the problem should be solved in a manner befitting a revolutionary society, so that the face of the revolution may remain unsullied. Unfortunately, in many instances, according to reports reaching the Iran Jurists Association, it is observed that not only are effective and speedy steps not being taken to remove misunderstandings, but many of these people are being kept in prison for weeks or months without reason, without being charged, without investigation and without the right to defense or to meet relatives or defense lawyers, while the judicial authorities do nothing to put an end to this cruelty and suppression of rights.

Voicing our protest and a great concern at such occurrences, we demand a speedy investigation into the conditions of these political prisoners and similar instances and the observance of all their political, social and revolutionary rights, and an investigation into their dossiers by qualified authorities of the judicial power. If the rights-seeking and logical demands of these compatriots are not met, their cry will be heard the world over and will be followed up by organizations abroad concerned with human rights.

Meanwhile, since the families of those political prisoners request judicial assistance and defense for these political prisoners, would you please arrange for lawyers of the jurists' association who have accepted the briefs of the defendants to meet their clients at an early date.

INA CITES REPORT ON DISSOLUTION OF POST-SHAH COURTS

JN080800 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0755 GMT 8 Jul 79 JN

[Text] Tehran, 2 Jul--It was decided here today to dissolve all the courts that were formed throughout Iran following the downfall of the shah.

Quoting Interior Minister Ahmad Sadr Haj-Seyyed-Javadi, the newspaper BAMDAD says that the decision was the result of a bazargan government proposal to the Islamic Council. The minister said special courts will be formed to try what he described as the enemies of the revolution. He added that judges from the Ministry of Justice will assume the responsibilities of these courts. He said that from now on all political prisoners will be brought to trial before these new courts.

FORMER JUSTICE MINISTER INTERVIEWED ON JUDICIARY ROLE

LD091101 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 1 Jul 79 p 4 LD

[Correspondent's interview with former Justice Minister Asadollah Mobasheri]

[Excerpts] A little while ago, during the second reshuffle of the cabinet of the Provisional Government of the Islamic Republic, Dr Asadollah Mobasheri, minister of justice, resigned from Mr Bazargan's cabinet, making way for Ahmad Sadr Haj-Seyyed-Javadi. With his resignation from the cabinet, it was said that Dr Mobasheri would continue to serve, but as an ambassador. However, after some time he announced that he would not accept government office again. Subsequently, he announced that he had accepted the post of editor of the newspaper KEYHAN.

Dr Mobasheri's resignation from the Bazargan government was followed by much rumor and discussion. In interviews with Dr Mobasheri published by the press, he gave "fatigue" as the main reason for his resignation. However, the matter did not seem so simple, and there was probably some reason other than this which had something to do with it.

To obtain a reply to this and other questions, we held a short discussion with him.

In reply to the first question: Why did you resign as minister of justice? Dr Mobasheri said:

A number of my fellow fighters were astonished at my resignation, and the reason I deserted the battle front. It is right that I chose to use "fatigue" as the reason, but this was not fatigue from serving as minister of justice. I would not desist from performing my duty if I were at the point of death. How can there be any tiredness when it comes to serving the people?

Dr Mobasheri was asked: You have continually said in interviews that the Justice Department should be independent. Did you attain this or not?

Dr Mobasheri said: As I have said many times, if the Justice Department is not completely independent, that is to say, should the executive power have the slightest influence over the judicial power, then the Justice Department has no separate existence.

The Justice Department must be independent of personal appointment or selection, as regards changes made in the judiciary or its employees, and from the financial point of view, so that it may be the mainstay of the nation and the government, giving its existence a meaning. Failing this, it too will become an organization like the Ministry of Finance, or the Department of Statistics or the meat organization.

Our correspondent asked: Did the changes which were made in the Justice Department influence your decision?

[Answer] I was given authority to carry out necessary changes and to remove superfluous organizations, and in my belief that the Justice Department should be immune from government proceedings or interference, since such action on the part of the government might turn into force, I assigned all this authority under the law to a board of judges, and the selection of the judges to the council of government. I proposed that five persons should be chosen as principal members and two as alternate members of the board. Measures were taken in this connection, but like other things these could not be put into full effect correctly.

A question was asked as to the reason for this lack of action with respect to convening the five-man board.

Dr Mobasher: In this regard too, a number of judges, because they were either "tired," or nearing retirement, proceeded to apply for retirement. Some were not invited to join because they were accused of being members of the freemasonry organisation. Some said that several years previously they had been invited to join the freemasons, had attended meetings on only one or two occasions and never again and were considered to have resigned, but the five-man board did not accept these statements. Thus many suitable and experienced judges were not invited to join.

I believe that those who say that they are not members of the freemasons, or that they have resigned membership, must be accepted, but the board would not accept them. I therefore proposed to the government that there should be recognition of the right to review and postpone judgement on those who had not been invited to participate and that the disciplinary committee should judge the matter so that there should be no deprivation of rights and that honest and honorable men should not be defamed for nothing.

Question: We have heard that the minister of justice of Germany wrote to you criticizing the workings of the revolutionary courts of Iran. Is this true, and if so, what reply did you give to him?

In reply the former minister of justice said: Yes, it is correct. Some time ago, the minister of justice of Germany, referring to international juridical agreements and the friendly relations between the two countries--Iran and Germany--expressed concern and sorrow at the workings of Iran's revolutionary courts, in which, according to the German minister of justice, the accused has no right of defense or appeal to a higher court, and death sentences are mostly issued at night. This, in the view of the German minister of justice, was contrary to international legal standards and the Human Rights Charter accepted by all countries of the world.

I received this letter when I was about to resign from the government and I have still not been able to send a reply. Of course, I have prepared a very detailed reply to the German minister of justice containing a full explanation of the proceedings of Iran's revolutionary courts as well as something about those on trial. In this letter, I acquaint the German minister of justice fully with the crimes and treachery committed by those on trial in these courts over many years under the previous regime. I shall be sending this letter soon.

Dr Mobasheri was asked: It has been heard recently that you protested at the detention and arrest of Najafi, minister of justice in the Sharif-Emami and Azhari governments, and that you assumed a defensive stance against his arrest. Could you say something about this?

In reply, Dr Mobasheri said: I do not know why they say I was against his arrest. I did not defend him in the least. What happened was that I always express myself clearly about anyone, and it was the same in regard to him. I gave my personal views concerning Najafi. I said that since I know him personally and have not the slightest reservation as to his beliefs, faith and service, that I had spoken to him and that I believed him when he said that he had only accepted the post of minister in order to stop the killings of the people and had personally been to see the deposed shah to beg for an end to the bloodshed.

He told me that in order that he might be persuaded to accept the ministry, a promise was made that anything he proposed would be accepted and implemented, and he accepted solely with a view to rendering service. This is all I said about Mr Najafi, and this is my personal opinion and cannot be regarded as "taking up a stance" or defending him, only as an expression of opinion. I did nothing about this, and I don't even know what is in his dossier or whether he committed treason or any crime.

'COUNTERREVOLUTIONARY ELEMENTS' SUBDUE OSHNAVIYEH COMMITTEE

LD091802 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1712 GMT 9 Jul 79 LD

[Press review on Oshnaviyeh incident]

[Text] KEYHAN writes: According to reports from informed sources in Oshnaviyeh [Kordestan province], counterrevolutionary elements have surrounded and disarmed the Islamic Revolutionary Committee there and burned the Iranian tricolor hoisted by the committee. The gendarmerie, assisted by Kurdish Javanmardan, surrounded the counterrevolutionary elements and held negotiations with them.

Two days earlier, the same counterrevolutionary elements had forced the Iranshahr Committee to resign and took over control of it.

KHUZESTAN GOVERNMENT WORKERS THREATENED WITH ARREST

LD100755 Tehran AYANDEGAN in Persian 5 Jul 79 p 1 LD

[AYANDEGAN correspondent's report]

[Text] Ahvaz--The prosecutor of the Islamic revolution of Khuzestan has issued an announcement banning any type of sit-in or go-slow in Khuzestan government offices and warned that those contravening this ban will be regarded as criminals and arrested.

The following is the text of the announcement by the prosecutor of the Islamic revolution of Khuzestan:

In the name of the Almighty. In regard to the fact that the Islamic revolution of Iran has gained victory, and the time has come for hard work and construction, all our Khuzestani brothers and sisters are reminded that it is forbidden to hold sit-ins or go-slows in government offices, particularly those of the Ministry of Education, governors' offices, municipalities, departments of justice, and the Revolutionary Prosecutions Office, which are needed by the people daily. Those contravening this ban will be regarded as criminals. Legal proceedings will be started against them and they will be detained in custody.

[Signed] Sattarian, Khuzestan Prosecutions Office.

INA CITES REPORTS ON LAND GRAB IN GONBAD-E KAVUS

JN091029 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1010 GMT 9 Jul 79 JN

[Text] Tehran, 9 July--Farms are being burned and peasants are being attacked in the Gonbad-e Kavus area and suburbs in northern Iran to force the peasants to leave the area.

The JOMHURI ESLAMI newspaper reported today that firearms are being used in the process to force the peasants to leave the area and to destroy the crops. The newspaper expressed regret over the lack of official reaction concerning the situation. The area was the scene of bloody incidents between Turkomans and Persians over the ownership of land 1 month ago.

INA ON CASUALTIES IN TABRIZ UNIVERSITY CLASHES

JN071635 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1525 GMT 7 Jul 79 JN

[Text] Tehran, 7 July--Several students were injured in clashes which took place yesterday at Tabriz University. This was reported by the evening newspaper ETTELA'AT today. The paper said that the clashes began when groups of people attacked a meeting being held by students supporting the Feda'iye Khalq militia organization.

The paper explained that the clash continued for several hours and many people on both sides were injured.

The students and their supporters later staged a sit-in at the office of the dean of men and in front of the university building in protest against these incidents. They demanded freedom to hold meetings by all political groups and organizations.

INA: LORESTAN MOSQUE BURNED BY UNKNOWN ELEMENTS

JN080857 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0805 GMT 8 Jul 79 JN

[Text] Tehran, 8 July--Unidentified elements have burned the (Shamshir) Mosque in Lorestan Province, in the southwest part of Iran.

Reporting this today, the newspaper JOMHURI ESLAMI says the fire destroyed the mosque's contents, including a number of transcripts of the Koran and other religious books.

SHI'ITE LEADER VIEWS KHUZESTAN UNREST, PROBLEMS

LD091003 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 27 Jun 79 p 5 LD

[Excerpt] Hojjat ol-Islam Sheykh 'Isa Khaqani, leader of the Qatar Shi'ites and an authority on problems of the region, gave his views during an exclusive interview on current issues facing the country and the Khuzestan incidents.

The text of the interview is as follows:

Question: How do you see the present situation in the area?

Answer: Unfortunately, the present situation is most unfavorable, and probable dangers exist. In my view, the principal reason for the present situation is the central government's failure to pay any attention to the condition of the region.

Question: Was the recent agreement [on the Khuzestan events] implemented, and what effect did it have?

Answer: There were eight articles in the agreement, of which three are at present being implemented. One was that there should be an investigation concerning those wounded and killed. For this a committee of three Arabs and three Persians was set up, and it began looking into the question of the bloodwite payment and allowances to surviving members of families. Another committee was set up to investigate the state of the poor; this consisted of three Arabs and two Persians and is now at work. Unfortunately there has been no implementation of the most important article of the agreement, which was to set up a court to try those responsible for the recent events, and this in itself has proved to be responsible for the recent demonstrations and unrest.

Question: Do you consider that the principal reason for the people's concern is the failure to set up the court?

Answer: No. The development of the region is also important. At a meeting with the imam recently, Mr Madani raised the question of the construction of a second bridge for Khorramshahr and obtained a budget for it; this is now being implemented. But the main reason was, first, the trial of the perpetrators of the recent events and, second, the matter of the disrespect shown to Ayatollah Shobeyr Khaqani by Ayatollah Khalkhali. Another important reason was the absence of any mention of Arab rights in the draft constitution.

Question: What is the weak spot in the constitution, as regards Arab rights and Persian rights?

Answer: We, the chiefs, sent our demands in 12 articles to the prime minister, who approved them, and a promise was given that they would be looked into. The important question is the request for autonomy, by which we mean that the Arabic language should be used in schools and on radio and television. As you know, the inhabitants of the region could make use of the media of the Arab countries, but they want an Arabic language program from the voice of profile of the Islamic Republic. They want Arabic newspapers and magazin s and there must be an Arabic language court. The Arabs demand the right to participate in government organizations, particularly the army, a right which they lacked under the former regime; all this must be reflected in the constitution.

Question: How do you see foreign provocation and the role of Iraq?

Answer: As far as I am aware, neighboring countries have played no role, and this is essentially something fabricated by irresponsible elements smong the Persians and the Arabs.

However, Iraq has reportedly begun to take part in arms shipments, although we have seen no evidence of this. They have not denied provocations by foreign elements, and the government has been requested to clarify the role of foreigners in this respect.

Question: What is the role of those elements who have been provoked?

Answer: They are internal elements, but not local people from Khorramshahr. They played a leading role in these events, which I must say took place after arms had been brought in from Iraq by Arabs living on the border.

Question: Were local groups involved?

Answer: Antirevolutionary and leftist groups were certainly involved.

Question: What stage has disarmament reached now?

Answer: It is now in progress. The military-cultural society, which is made up of Arabs and Persians, has announced that its members have been disarmed, but unfortunately some of them are still armed. Martial law is in force on the border and there are searches at 2000 hours punctually each night. On the island of Salbuh (formerly called Minavi), in the area of Shadegan and on the border near Khorramshahr, a close watch is being kept on activity. The government has announced that those in possession of arms may obtain permits, but government-owned weapons must be returned.

Question: How can provocations be neutralized?

Answer: It would help a lot to look into the state of the poor and underprivileged, to remove all forms of racial discrimination between the Persians and the Arabs, and to establish a court for the investigation of crimes committed by the perpetrators of recent incidents.

Question: Do you personally approve of General Madani, and what do the people of the region think of him?

Answer: Since he is appointed by the imam, some approve of him, but others are very much against him. Up to yesterday, all the walls were covered with slogans against him. Even if he is appointed by the imam, some ask, why a military figure, and believe that he should not be governor-general. For there are two delicate matters which arise: First, the suspicion about the government being particularly sensitive toward the region, which led them to appoint a military figure, and second, the fact that a military figure is not politically suitable. Personally I regard him as a basically good man, although severe, for which I would take him to task. Before the Khorramshahr incident occurred, I had a meeting with him and he promised that the matter would be settled amicably, but an hour after the talks, armed clashes began. However, he denied that he was involved in the events but we know that these incidents were the result of pressures from the merchants. At the present time, the selfsame persons who were responsible for the armed suppression are now ruling the city.

AFGHANISTAN

CUBA'S FLAVIO BRAVO ARRIVES ON VISIT 8 JULY

LD082130 Kabul in English to Europe 1900 GMT 8 Jul 79 LD

[Text] His Excellency Flavio Bravo, member of the Council of State and vice president of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cuba, arrived here this morning heading a delegation. His excellency is visiting Afghanistan in connection with the forthcoming conference of heads of state and government of the nonalined countries scheduled to be convened during the first week of next September in Havana, and during his stay in Kabul he will exchange views with concerned authorities of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan over matters related to that conference. Dr Shah Wali, deputy lumlai wazir [prime minister] and minister of public health; dr 'Abdorrashid Jalili, minister of education; Dr Assodollah Amin, second deputy minister for political affairs; and members of the Cuban Embassy in Kabul welcomed the delegation at Kabul International Airport.

Meeting With Taraki

JN091850 Kabul International Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Jul 79 JN

[Text] The great leader of the people of Afghanistan, Nur Mohammad Taraki, general secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and chairman of the Revolutionary Council of the Democratic Republic, at 1000 today received His Excellency Flavio Bravo, vice president of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cuba. The meeting took place in the Gulhana Palace in the House of the People. His excellency submitted to the leader of the people an invitation from President Fidel Castro to leader Taraki to take part in the sixth conference of the nonalined countries to be held in the first week of September.

During his talks with the Cuban official, Taraki said: Like the Cuban masses who are exerting great efforts in constructing their society, the people of Afghanistan are doing their utmost to consolidate their revolution. Imperialist circles plot against us, but the people of Afghanistan foil these plots one after another. Despite the plots of the enemies of the Afghan people, the supreme aims of the Afghan revolution are being realized one after the other. Our masses are marching forward toward the achievement of the supreme aspirations of the people. Our masses have been able to successfully complete the agrarian reform project and the census of the people. The struggle to eradicate illiteracy is spreading widely. A million people are now working to receive vital education.

Taraki added: We greatly desire a comprehensive peace. In peace we can achieve the supreme aims of the revolution. Like heroic Cuba, which fought against imperialism for 20 years and which is still remaining steadfast in the face of imperialist plots, Afghanistan is also standing steadfast in the face of imperialism and the reactionaries of the region. Afghanistan is fighting on a large scale to foil these plots and conspiracies.

Our beloved leader said: We firmly believe in our eventual victory; this is because the toiling masses of the Afghan Muslims stand by us. They struggle on our side to build a society that will abolish the exploitation of man by man. The people of Afghanistan have now realized the meaning of building a society in which there is no exploitation of man by man. The people of Afghanistan are wholeheartedly struggling toward this end.

Concerning the success of the sixth nonalined conference to be held in Havana and the imperialist stand on this conference, Taraki said: All the successful nonalined conferences have dealt a blow to the imperialist circles. The sixth conference to be held in Cuba is bound to succeed. Hence the imperialist and reactionary circles are attempting to hinder the success of the conference. Concerning countries which apply for the nonalined movement membership, revolutionary Cuba is following with pleasure the victory of the people of Afghanistan and regards this victory as its own. The Afghan people have now rid themselves of imperialist and feudal legacies. They are marching forward with assurance. He said: The Cuban masses are following with interest the great victories achieved by the Afghan people, including the successful democratic agrarian reform and other social developments. You know that the path before the Afghan people is difficult but they will emerge successful. He said: During the (?past 20 years), imperialism made military movements and provocations against Cuba, but the people of Cuba bravely fought against it. We say that like the Cuban people, the Afghan people will also overcome the difficulties created by imperialist and reactionary circles and will march forward with complete success, with the comprehensive support of progressive and peace-loving nations.

Flavio Bravo added [as heard] that the Cuban people love the Afghan leader. He is a great personality. We are sure that the Afghan people will achieve victories under his great leadership.

BANGLADESH

INDIAN ALLEGATIONS OF ATTACK ON VILLAGERS DENIED

BK091354 Dacca Domestic Service in English 0835 GMT 9 Jul 79 BK

[Text] Bangladesh has categorically denied the allegations made by India about the involvement of its nationals in an incident in village Gumla under Chappra police station of Nadia district, as reported by the Calcutta station of All-India Radio [AIR] in its news bulletin on the 7th of this month. The report alledged that about 200 people from Bangladesh, armed with firearms and lathis [sticks], assulted some persons in the village, as a result of which one person was killed and two others injured.

A spokesman of the Foreign Ministry said in Dacca today that the Bangladesh authorities have conducted a thorough investigation into the allegation and found that no Bangladeshi was involved in any such incident as reported in the news bulletin of the AIR.

PRIME MINISTER LEAVES FOR GENEVA EDUCATION CONFERENCE

BK071615 Dacca Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 7 Jul 79 BK

[Text] The prime minister, Shah Azizur Rahman, left Dacca for Geneva last night to attend the third session of the international conference on education. The prime minister will address the conference on Monday.

FOREIGN MINISTER RETURNS HOME FROM RABAT CONFERENCE

BK091332 Dacca Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 9 Jul 79 BK

[Excerpts] The just-concluded conference at Rabat of the Jerusalem Commission had decided to appeal to Islamic heads of state to take firm steps, including severing of diplomatic relations, with those countries deciding to transfer their embassies to Jerusalem.

This was stated by the Bangladesh foreign minister, Prof Mohammad Shamsul Haq, at a news conference in Dacca today. The foreign minister represented Bangladesh at the Rabat conference of the commission.

Describing the meeting as a historic one, Professor Haq said: For the first time it was agreed at the meeting that all Islamic countries should follow a common policy in their relations with other countries in regard to the problems of Jerusalem and the Palestinians.

In reply to a question, the foreign minister reiterated that on the question of the Middle East, Bangladesh has always been and will continue to be with the Arabs and the Palestinians.

INDIA

CUBA'S RODRIGUEZ BEGINS VISIT, MEETS WITH DESAI, VAJPAYEE

BK061635 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 6 Jul 79 BK

[Text] Egypt has been officially invited to attend the forthcoming nonalined summit conference to be held in Havana in September. This was conveyed to the prime minister, Mr Morarji Desai, by the Cuban vice president of Council of State, Dr Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, who called on him in New Delhi today. Dr Rodriguez is in New Delhi for consultations with India in connection with the forthcoming nonalined summit in Havana.

Dr Rodriguez began his 6-day visit to India with the call on the prime minister, Mr Desai, and the first round of talks with the external affairs minister, Mr Vajpayee. Preparations for the forthcoming nonalined summit at Havana figured prominently at both the meetings.

At the meeting with the prime minister, which lasted for about an hour, Dr Rodriguez delivered a letter to Mr Desai from the Cuban president, Dr Fidel Castro. Mr Vajpayee was also present. Mr Desai told the distinguished visitor that mutual suspicion, rivalries and hostilities among nations will disappear only after military blocs are dismantled and all countries become nonalined.

During his meeting with Mr Vajpayee, Dr Rodriguez presented a draft declaration including an action program of the Havana summit for India's consideration.

Briefing newsmen at the end of the talks, an official spokesman said the document will be studied and further exchange of views will take place between the two sides. There was a detailed and in-depth discussion on matters that are likely to come up at the Havana summit. The two leaders, who were assisted by high officials, pledged their resolve to insure the success of the summit. Both expressed the desirability of maintaining the fundamental postulate and character of the nonalined movement. They expressed the conviction that Havana will not be a battleground between those who wish to preserve the character of the movement and those who may want to change it. The spokesman said that consultations at both the meetings were held in a warm and friendly atmosphere.

Dr Rodriguez and Mr Vajpayee will have further talks tomorrow.

Further Talks With Vajpayee

BK071562 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 7 Jul 79 BK

[Text] India has offered collaboration to Cuba in the drug and pharmaceutical industry. This offer was made today to the visiting Cuban vice president of the Council of State, Dr Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, during talks on bilateral cooperation between India and Cuba. The Indian side at the talks was led by the external affairs minister, Mr Vajpayee.

During the talks it was pointed out there are prospects for collaboration in the sugar industry. Cooperation in joint ventures in and with third countries was also discussed. In this connection, Soviet-assisted projects in India and Cuba were mentioned. Dr Rodriguez and Mr Vajpayee recognized the prospects for developing a tripartite cooperation among India, Cuba and the Soviet Union for supply of equipment and spare parts. Both the leaders stressed the need to step up cultural exchanges. In the field of sports, some collaboration was going on. It was mentioned that a team of two Indian scientists visited Cuba recently and had led to identification of areas in which the two countries could collaborate.

Officials of the two delegations had two rounds of meetings today. They exchanged views on the draft document for the nonalined summit in Havana. The talks will continue.

Trade Agreement Signed

BK100921 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 10 Jul 79 BK

[Text] India and Cuba have signed a trade agreement in New Delhi. Beside developing and promoting economic and commercial relations between the two countries, the pact also provides for the setting up of an India-Cuba committee. It will periodically meet and examine the flow of commercial exchanges between the two countries. The agreement was reached following discussions between the visiting Cuban delegation headed by Dr Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice president of the Council of State, and the Indian officials. The Cuban side showed particular interest in buying from India sugarmill and textile machinery, railway wagons and coaches. It has also shown interest in joint collaboration on mass communications and industrial projects in third countries.

The exports from India include tires, chemicals and pharmaceuticals, sugarmill machinery, copper wires, electric and telephone wires and transport equipment. The exports from that country to India are mainly nickel oxides, cement, steel balls, industrial and agricultural implements and rayon fibers.

LORD CARRINGTON ENDS VISIT, LEAVES FOR BAGHDAD

BK031259 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 3 Jul 79 BK

[Text] The British foreign secretary, Lord Carrington, left New Delhi for Baghdad this afternoon after talks with Indian leaders. He was seen off at the airport by the external affairs minister, Mr Vajpayee, and senior officials.

Earlier, addressing a news conference, Lord Carrington said that Indian immigrant residents in Britain would be given all the rights and privileges enjoyed by British nationals. He said that his government is determined to have a proper control of immigration so that there is no race trouble in the United Kingdom.

ARMED INTRUDERS FROM BANGLADESH FIRE ON INDIAN VILLAGE

BK061033 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 6 Jul 79 BK

[Text] According to agency reports, one person was killed and another severely injured when some armed people from Bangladesh crossed over the border and started firing on the villagers at Gumla in Nadia district of the eastern state of West Bengal. The intruders retreated when they were chased by the border security force personnel.

Border Patrols Increased

BK080901 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 8 Jul 79 BK

[Text] The border security force [BSF] has increased the patrolling of the 250-km-long India-Bangladesh border in Nadia district following an armed attack on Chapra village by intruders from Bangladesh in which two persons were killed. The BSF has also strengthened its border outposts in the Chapra area by posting more personnel to meet all eventualities.

GOVERNMENT TAKES PRECAUTIONS AGAINST SKYLAB DEBRIS

BK071642 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 7 Jul 79 BK

[Text] Official sources in New Delhi feel that the possibility of any pieces of the Skylab falling in any part of India, causing damage to life or property, is extremely low. However, as a measure of precaution, the center has asked all state governments to keep the police and fire services on full alert during the time the Skylab is expected to return to earth.

Desai Remarks

BK091000 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 9 Jul 79 BK

[Text] According to the latest report from the National Aeronautics and Space Authority of the United States, Skylab is expected to fall on the earth between 0500 on Wednesday and 1100 on Thursday.

In the Lok Sabha, several members expressed concern over the matter. The speaker, Mr Hegde, urged the prime minister to allay the fears of the people. Mr Desai said he cannot say anything. He said it can fall anywhere and added that he does not want to die before it actually comes. Mr Desai said he had taken up the issue with the United States and told them they will have to compensate whatever damages are caused by the Skylab debris. They have agreed to that.

Bombay Police Patrolling Streets

BK091002 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 9 Jul 79 BK

[Text] In Bombay, police have been patrolling the city to allay fears among the people regarding the Skylab. The Orissa government has warned the public to avoid contact with the pieces of Skylab if they fall anywhere in the state.